

*Culver (J. E.)*  
25720  
A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

OF *vi-35*

RECENT DISSENSIONS

IN THE

DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE

COUNTY OF HUDSON,

N. J.



COMPILED BY J. E. CULVER, M. D.

New York :

POWERS, MACGOWAN & SLIPPER, PRINTERS,

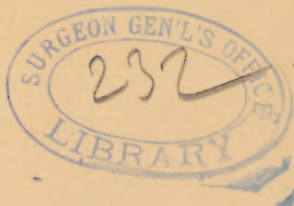
Corner Nassau and Frankfort Streets,

(SON BUILDING)

1873.







## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

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THE object of this publication is to arrange in readable print a full and complete compilation from the Minute Book of the Hudson Co. District Med. Society, and other documents, of all that therein explains, or in any way relates to, past and existing differences among the members. The transcriptions are faithful copies, without correction of grammatical errors. They embrace a diversity of topics, and extend back more than a decade of years. Explanatory notes accompany them wherever necessary to a correct appreciation of the facts.

Our reasons for undertaking this task are :

1. It is intended to appeal to the New Jersey Medical Society to sustain the rights of the regular officers and members of the Hudson Co. District Med. Society, against a *quasi* rival faction, composed of a large minority of the members, and several other parties that are not members, who have conspired together unlawfully to assume the name and exercise the powers of the Hudson Co. District Med. Society.

2. The said faction has already hastened to forestall public opinion, and has, to this end, published in the daily papers certain malicious misstatements derogatory to their former associates, which are well calculated, and possibly they were intended, to deceive and prejudice even the tribunal to which we purpose to submit our case.

3. To understand fully, and weigh accurately, all the evidence to be adduced concerning the dissensions alluded to, and the near and remote causes of them, will require close and prolonged attention; and it is much easier to read, refer to, and comprehend the matters involved in the questions at issue, if they are presented in letterpress, rather than in manuscript.

# HISTORY.

## DR. I. N. QUIMBY'S CANDIDATURE.

HUDSON CO. DISTRICT MED. SOCIETY,  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING,  
November 19th, 1860.

Dr. E. W. Buck proposed Dr. I. N. Quimby for membership.

REGULAR MEETING,  
December 24th, 1860.

Dr. Quimby was unanimously rejected.

REGULAR MEETING,  
June 5th, 1868.

Dr. M. A. Miller proposed Dr. I. N. Quimby for membership.

REGULAR MEETING,  
July 7th, 1868.

The Society then proceeded to ballot for Dr. Isaac N. Quimby, who received two affirmative votes, and fourteen negative, with one blank.

Dr. T. F. Morris presented the following, which was adopted :

Whereas, Dr. Quimby has been rejected by the Society, therefore be it resolved : That it will be considered a violation of the Code of Ethics for any member of this Society to meet or consult with him professionally, or any other applicant who may hereafter be rejected.

Dr. Morris moved that the Secretary notify Dr. Quimby that he was rejected ; and also notify all members of this Society of his rejection ; and notify the Pathological Society of New York, and the Academy of Medicine, that he was rejected for repeated and gross violations of the Code of Ethics ; the vote standing fourteen in favor of rejection, two against, with one blank.

REGULAR MEETING,  
December 1st, 1868.

Dr. F. G. Payn proposed for membership, Dr. I. N. Quimby. (He was rejected by ballot, January 5th, 1869 ; the vote counted is not recorded in the minutes.)

REGULAR MEETING,  
May 4th, 1869.

Dr. J. E. Culver offered the following Resolution : That Dr. I. N. Quimby be accepted as a candidate for membership, and that the Committee appointed in his case shall withhold their report until perfectly satisfied as to the eligibility of the candidate. Proposal accepted ; and Drs. Culver, Payn, and Varick were appointed a Committee to report at leisure.

REGULAR MEETING,  
September 7th, 1869.

Reports of Committees.—The Committee on Dr. Quimby reported having met, and decided to postpone their report for six months.

Dr. Morris then moved that the Committee be discharged. Seconded, and carried. It was then moved, and seconded, that the Society resolves itself into a Committee of the whole, to consider the case of Dr. Quimby. Carried.



REGULAR MEETING,  
November 2nd, 1869.

Committee of the whole on Dr. Quimby reported; and, on ballot, he was unanimously rejected.

NOTE.—The above items serve to illustrate the history of the rejections of Dr. Quimby, and to show the exceeding captiousness of Dr. Morris. Dr. Quimby is but very remotely connected with the present disturbances in the District Med. Society. His influence probably led the Regents of the Hudson Co. Hospital to infringe and violate the rights of the District Med. Society, and chiefly dictated their staff appointments. Through his exertions the Hudson Co. Path. Society, as a rival to the District Med. Society, was organized. It is proper to state that Dr. Morris' 2nd Resolution, quoted, was passed without being heard and understood by several of the members, including the President.

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## HUDSON COUNTY HOSPITAL.

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The Charter of the Hudson County Hospital was granted by the New Jersey Legislature, during the Session of 1860–61.

The first amendment to the Hudson County Hospital Charter was obtained by Dr. Quimby clandestinely, without the knowledge or consent of the District Med. Society, or of the Hudson County Hospital medical staff then existing. It increased the number of Regents from ten to twenty. It passed the New Jersey Legislature during the Session of 1868–69.

The second amendment to the Hudson County Hospital Charter passed the New Jersey Legislature during the Session of 1869–70, after expensive lobbying. It deprived the District Med. Society of its franchise guaranteed in the original Charter; and enabled the Regents to appoint "such and so many physicians and surgeons" on the Hospital staff, independently of any moral or professional standing or qualifications. Several of the Regents, in violation of their trust, concerted with Dr. Quimby to procure this enactment.

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REGULAR MEETING,  
December 7th, 1869.

Dr. Morris moved that the President appoint a Committee of five members to wait upon the Regents of the Hudson County Hospital, and urge their compliance with the present Charter, so far as relates to the appointment of the Hospital staff. Drs. Talson, Chabert, Payn, Culver, and Forman were appointed.

NOTE.—The Committee agreed to meet the Regents at Taylor's Hotel, December 20th, 1869. Owing to the inclement weather, only Drs. Talson and Culver attended. They presented the following paper, which was read to the Regents by the Rev. V. V. Mabon.

## APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE HUDSON COUNTY HOSPITAL.

### *Audi Alteram Partem.*

GENTLEMEN: It having come to the knowledge of the Hudson County District Medical Society that the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents, appointed under the Charter authorizing the organization of the Hudson County Hospital, have recommended to you a non-compliance with the just and lawful provisions of said Charter and an appeal to the State government to rescind that clause thereof which requires the medical and surgical staff to be members of the Hudson County District Medical Society or members of the State Medical Society—thereupon, at a regular meeting



of the Hudson County District Medical Society, held at the Jersey City Charity Hospital, December 7, 1869, we, the undersigned, were, with the unanimous approval of the members present, appointed a Committee to wait upon the Board of Regents of the Hudson County Hospital, respectfully to urge the immediate organization of the Hospital corps in accordance with the requirements of the Charter, and to protest against any infringement or abrogation of the rights therein granted to the Hudson County District Medical Society.

To perform the duties assigned us we come before you, gentlemen, and most respectfully and earnestly solicit your hearing. We foreknow that the success or defeat of a noble enterprise waits upon your action. We do not fear that your ultimate decision will be, in any wise, adverse to the interests vested in our Society by the Hospital Charter. We do not fear that any member of your Board will prove recreant to his high trust, and seek to divert the Institution from its original humane purposes. But we do fear that your Executive Committee are misinformed in regard to the Hudson County District Medical Society, its objects, and its relations to medical men, to medical organizations, and to the Hudson County Hospital. We hope to remove all misunderstanding.

The Hudson County District Medical Society consists of a large majority (seven-eighths) of all the medical practitioners in this county who possess the moral qualifications and scientific attainments requisite to become members. Its objects are clearly defined.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF HUDSON.

##### ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be known as the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson. Its objects are:

- 1st. To advance the science and art of Medicine and Surgery.
- 2d. To promote harmony among medical men, and maintain high the standard of professional character.

The following, also quoted from the Constitution of our Society, comprises the whole law governing admission to membership.

##### ARTICLE V.

Any practitioner of medicine and surgery, of acceptable moral and professional reputation, who is a graduate of a medical college, or a licentiate of a medical organization either in affiliation with the American Medical Association, or by them recognized as qualified to grant medical diplomas, shall be eligible to membership in this Society. Every proposal for membership accepted shall be referred to a committee of three members, appointed by the President, that shall forthwith proceed to examine the eligibility of the candidate, and shall report thereupon at a subsequent meeting. The report received, an election by ballot shall be held, and a concurrence of three-fourths of all the members present will be required to admit such candidate. Upon admission, each member shall subscribe his name to the constitution and by-laws, and pay an admission fee of five dollars into the treasury; he shall also pay twenty-five cents per month thereafter.

These requirements are neither exclusive, compulsory, nor burdensome; and, hitherto, almost every applicant, duly qualified, has been admitted to membership by a unanimous vote; none has ever been rejected. Every practitioner of medicine and surgery, worthy to become a member of the Hudson County District Medical Society, is welcomed by all the members to terms of equality; and he may join the Society or not at his option. A few of this class of non-members reside and practice their profession in the county, and not one of them has ever yet complained of our Society, or had



cause to complain. Sister societies exist throughout the State of New Jersey, the United States, and the whole civilized world. Their vital purpose is to cultivate among medical men, everywhere, habits of scientific investigation, moral conduct, mutual confidence. We trust that from the ranks of our Society, and those eligible thereto, the Regents will be able to select a competent and unexceptionable Hospital staff; and that men unfit for the former association will be deemed unfit for the latter. Every physician, to become a member of the Hudson County District Medical Society, must be of good moral reputation, and must exhibit his diploma; and the approval of this Society, of itself, constitutes a safe guide for the Regents in making their appointments. We believe, moreover, that medical men are better qualified to judge of medical men's abilities and character than are others. We take the liberty to assure you, gentlemen, that the Hudson County District Medical Society will never interpose objections, technical or other, to the appointment on the Hospital staff of any physician or surgeon in good standing among his professional brethren.

But were it possible, and were the Board of Regents to place on the Hospital staff one with whom, on account of his moral obliquities and educational incompetence, the members of the Hudson County District Medical Society cannot affiliate, that moment, and by that act, they will debar from the Hospital not merely a large and influential body of men, but the best medical and surgical skill which the county, the State, the nation possesses. For the rules of conduct of the Hudson County District Medical Society claim not the allegiance of our Society alone, but they are the national code of medical ethics, framed and adopted by the American Medical Association. We repeat, were it possible, and were the Board of Regents to appoint on the Hospital staff one charlatan or truthless knave, that moment, and by that act, they will virtually exclude therefrom the entire medical profession. For truth and deception, science and superstition, are essentially antagonistic; and they cannot be brought into entangling alliances. The observance of a code of ethics among the medical profession is world-wide. It is no innovation. It had been enforced before the Hippocratic oath was penned.

The idea of establishing a Hospital for Hudson County originated with members of the Hudson County District Medical Society, who, in the prosecution of their professional duties, often became cognizant of the want of an asylum for the homeless sufferer. By the same members the first Regents were named, and their consent was obtained to the use of their names in the Charter. By the same members, and the Hon. A. O. Zabriskie, and the Hon. J. D. Miller (since deceased), the existing Charter was framed. By one of the members, T. R. Varick, M.D., the entire expense was paid of its enactment into a law by the New Jersey Legislature. The Charter is couched in unmistakable language. It was the intention of the originators of the Hospital to place it under the charge of a succession of worthy and scientific physicians and surgeons resident where their services could be rendered to meet its requirements; and, also, to guard perpetually against revolutionary proceedings tending to divert its management into the control of any of the numerous forms of quackery. To secure these results, one check upon the action of the Board of Regents was incorporated in the Charter. That check is the bare privilege granted to the Hudson County District Medical Society of determining that the physicians and surgeons, from whom the Hospital physicians and surgeons are to be appointed, shall be duly qualified. We are told that it is possible to force a repeal of this vital conservative provision of the Charter—to wrest the Hospital out of the hands of its original projectors, and to fill its professional staff with a menagerie of mountebanks. Is it possible? We scorn the suggestion of perfidy—of legislative frivolity.

Gentlemen, the proposed amendment to the Hospital Charter, recommended by your Executive Committee, requires that the members of the



Hospital staff shall be graduates of Colleges. "Such as" one in New York and one in Philadelphia. "Such as," in its most restricted sense, can mean none other than these two Colleges; in its widest interpretation it may embrace all chartered Colleges, whether they teach medical and surgical science, or Thomsonianism, or Homeopathy. We protest against the proposed amendment, as opening a wide door and inviting to places of delicate trust and grave responsibility all manner of false pretension, heartless charlatanism and fantastic trick; for its phraseology is loose, ambiguous, and pervertible. We protest against the proposed amendment as ignoring all moral qualifications, and not even requiring that your appointees upon the Hospital staff shall be respectable members of the profession, or of society. Gentlemen, the Hospital Charter only restrains you from making unworthy appointments to office; but the proposed amendment, in its ambiguity, half conceals a purpose which threatens practically to restrain you from making good ones. Gentlemen, you have accepted office under the Hospital Charter, and, although you were not sworn to carry its provisions into effect, you are in honor bound to do so. He who cavils can resign and withdraw his subscription; but he has no right to remain, a dog in the manger, with intent to delay or defeat the organization. Let him not seek to rob us of our Hospital Charter, but rather let him obtain a new one to his liking, at his own cost, for the special benefit of his favorite "Doctor," clairvoyant, homeopathist, hydropathist, Thomsonian, or eclectic, as the case may be. He who whispers to your Executive Committee to amend, purposes to destroy.

Gentlemen, in behalf of suffering humanity that deprecates delay; in behalf of the vested rights of our Society; in behalf of the originators of this noble enterprise; in behalf of common justice, we appeal to you to maintain inviolate that wise, definitive, and comprehensive law which confers on you obligations as well as powers, and demands of you the honorable organization of the Hospital staff.

Finally, gentlemen, permit us to express our utmost confidence that honest convictions and entire good faith actuate all the members of your Board; and to pledge the prompt co-operation of the Hudson County District Medical Society in all your praiseworthy endeavors to found and sustain the Hudson County Hospital.

Very respectfully,

GEO. W. TALSON,  
ROMEO F. CHABERT,  
F. G. PAYN,  
J. E. CULVER,  
S. R. FORMAN,

*Committee.*

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HUDSON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY,  
REGULAR MEETING,  
January 4th, 1870.

Committee to wait upon the Regents of the Hudson County Hospital submitted a Minority Report, through Dr. Culver. It was moved and seconded that the report be received, and that the Committee receive the thanks of the Society.

Dr. Hunt also made a motion that this Society sustain the Committee appointed to wait on the Regents of the Hudson County Hospital, and that the report of the Committee be published, which was carried.

NOTE.—The plan of the Regents was, originally, to have the Second Amendment require the members of the Hospital staff to be graduates of "Colleges, such as"; but this reading was afterwards changed to, "such, and so many physicians and surgeons," etc.



## THE MEDICAL STAFF NO. 2 OF THE HUDSON COUNTY HOSPITAL.

REGULAR MEETING,  
March 1st, 1870.

Dr. Talson, the chairman, made a statement in reference to the action of several members who had promised to serve on the hospital staff of the Hudson County Hospital.

Dr. Hunt moved that committees of three each be appointed by the Secretary to call upon the members named. Seconded by Dr. Morris, and carried.

Committee on Dr. Payn—Drs. Culver, Watson, and Varick.

Committee on Dr. Burdett—Drs. Vondy, Benson, and Chabert.

Committee on Dr. Noble—Drs. Vondy, Benson, and Chabert.

Committee on Dr. Buffett—Drs. Morris, Foreman, and Lutkins.

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REGULAR MEETING,  
April 5th, 1870.

Dr. Talson presiding. Dr. Morris moved the consideration of appointments on the staff of the Hudson County Hospital. Carried.

Dr. Buffett offered a resolution on this subject which was ordered to be laid on the table.

Dr. Culver gave a history of the origin of the Charter of the Hudson County Hospital in the membership of this society.

Dr. Buck moved that the Society hold an adjourned meeting to consider more fully the matters now pending before the Society. Carried.

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ADJOURNED MEETING,  
April 12th, 1870.

The Secretary then read the resolution by which the adjourned meeting was held.

Dr. Buck addressed the Society at some length in reference to staff appointments in the Hudson County Hospital. Many of the members took part in the discussion to which this paper gave rise.

Dr. Vondy offered the following resolution, which was seconded and carried:

Whereas, The Board of Regents of the Hudson County Hospital have appointed on the visiting staff of their hospital an individual who has been several times rejected by the Hudson County Medical Society for gross and repeated violations of the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association, which still continue,

Resolved, That the physicians and surgeons residing in New York City, who have been recently appointed as consulting physicians and surgeons to the Hudson County Hospital, be, and are hereby, requested to decline the appointment, unless the visiting staff shall be selected from the Hudson County Medical Society, or at least be composed of regular practitioners in good moral and professional standing in the place or places where they reside.

Dr. Foreman offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Society recommend to those of its members who have received appointments to the staff of the Hudson County Hospital together to decline to serve with one who does not observe professional courtesy toward this Society.

Dr. Hunt moved that the members present who have been appointed on the staff of the Hudson County Hospital be now heard. Carried.

Dr. Buffett then stated that it was his present intention to serve on the hospital staff. Dr. Noble also stated his intention to serve. Dr. Burdett stated that he had promised to serve on certain conditions and he was not yet aware that these conditions had not been complied with.

Dr. Cornelison, consulting physician, pleaded his willingness to stand by his appointment.

Dr. Payn informed the Society that he had resigned from the hospital staff.

The society then adjourned.

M. A. MILLER, Secretary.

#### REGULAR MEETING,

May 3d, 1870.

Dr. Talson presented to the Secretary a communication from Dr. Finnell, of New York City, in reference to a member of our society. (Charging Dr. Prendergast with irregularities.)

Dr. Watson moved that a committee be appointed to ascertain the correctness of the report. Carried.

Committee—Drs. Watson and Mulcahy.

(The report was found to be true. Dr. Prendergast was requested to conform his conduct to the Code of Ethics, but without result.)

Dr. Culver moved that a committee be appointed to prefer charges against members of this Society who are serving on the staff of the Hudson County Hospital, and report at next meeting. Carried.

Drs. Culver, Watson, and Mulcahy were appointed a committee.

#### MEETING, June 7th, 1870.

Committee on Hudson County Hospital—Dr. Culver, chairman of committee on charges, asked for instructions.

Dr. Hunt moved that the committee be instructed to prefer charges (covering the whole grounds) against such members as have openly defied the society in this matter, including one of the consulting physicians of the hospital, who is a member of this Society. Carried.

(At the July regular meeting the Committee on Charges was ordered to report at next meeting.)

#### MEETING, August 2d, 1870.

Dr. Culver, chairman of a special committee, read charges and specifications against Dr. J. M. Cornelison, a member. Report received and committee continued.

#### REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE, APPOINTED MAY 3, 1870.

JERSEY CITY, August 1, 1870.

*Mr. President of the Hud. Co. Dist. Med. Soc.:*

Your committee appointed to prepare and prefer charges against members of this society who are guilty of malpractices, beg leave to state that we have performed our allotted task in part. We have examined, deliberately, the cases upon which we are now prepared to report.

Your committee have not been insensible to the grave considerations that determine and environ your decision. The honor and even the existence of the Hudson County District Medical Society are imperilled. It has been threatened in a public meeting of the Board of Regents of the Hudson County Hospital, by one of their number, "to fight the Hudson County District Medical Society to the bitter end." Perchance its extermination is foredoomed. Soon to see it perish is the malicious hope of its enemies. The outside, irregular, practitioners have long dreaded, and perhaps magnified its influence for good. The member guilty of irregularities of conduct toward the public, or toward his brethren in the profession, has felt its restraints, and once or twice he has bewailed that he should be coerced into any involuntary propriety of behavior.



Your committee have restricted the charges herewith submitted for your approval to acts inimical to the well-being of our Society. As far as possible they have avoided unpleasant personalities. Refractory members, against whom charges are preferred, must be brought to trial, must have ample opportunity for defense, and must acquiesce in the final judgment of this Society. We need not add that the dictum of this society must ever be pure from personal prejudice and above reproach. Its decisions may become precedents; they are subject to review by the Medical Society of New Jersey.

What constitutes a crime against the Hudson County District Medical Society? This preliminary question was discussed by your committee. A crime against a State consists in disobedience to the laws enacted by the inhabitants of that State, or by their chosen or accepted representatives. A crime against a church, be it Jewish, Christian, Mohammedan or Pagan, of whatever sect or denomination, consists in disobedience to any of the rules of conduct or faith established and enforced by that church. Moreover it is so with all social organizations. They enact or adopt each its own code of laws, infidelity to any of the requirements of which is a crime against membership. The members of the Hudson County District Medical Society have, every one of them, voluntarily signed a constitution, by-laws, and a code of ethics, devolving upon themselves certain duties. To ignore or disavow the compact, or to disobey its injunctions, is a crime against membership. Besides, every rule of government adopted by this society, is, by virtue of the subscribed constitution and by laws, binding on every member alike to render it obedience. (*Vide* Art.V. Con. and Sec. V. By-Laws.)

Mr. President: We ask your permission to recommend to the careful consideration of the members of our Society the following enactments: Article 1st of the Constitution, which points out the objects for the attainment of which this Society exists, and defines the chief duties of membership; Article 5th, which requires the obligations of membership to be self-imposed—it also describes the qualifications of those who are fit to become members; Article 5th, which declares who are unfit to continue in fellowship. This Society has adopted as its own the entire Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association. Article 5th of the Code of Ethics affirms, that “physicians should found their expectations of practice upon the extent of their qualifications, not on intrigue and artifice.” Article 4th of the Code of Ethics provides that every one who is not in good moral and professional standing (*i.e.*, amongst the regular profession) in the place in which he resides, shall be excluded from fellowship, and his aid refused in consultation, even when it is requested by the patient. At the twentieth annual meeting of the American Medical Association, May 5th, 1869, it was “resolved that the proper construction of Art. 4th, Code of Ethics, American Medical Association, having been called for relative to consultation with irregular practitioners who are graduates of regular schools; therefore, resolved that Article 4th, Section 1st, Code of Ethics, excludes all mal-practitioners from recognition by the regular profession.”

Therefore is disobedience to the laws of the Hudson Co. Dist. Med. Soc. a crime that not only forfeits membership; but if we, as a society, fellowship the guilty and unworthy, we verily compound the crime with them, share their dishonor, and so exclude ourselves, one and all, from all claims to recognition by the regular profession. Furthermore, if we allow such fellowship to be forced upon us, we not only suffer this debasement but we stultify ourselves besides; for then we do not ourselves what we have already required of others.

Article 6th of the Constitution seems to be ill-adapted or clumsily appropriate to the dealings of the Society with its refractory members. It requires a charge of “immoral and unprofessional behavior.” We have complied with the technicality while referring only to acts against the good fellowship and existence of the Society. We submit that it is immoral for a member

to violate rules to which he has, of his own free act, subscribed; and that it is unprofessional to court and foster such association as is forbidden by the Code of Ethics of the medical profession of our country.

Pursuant to the obligations enjoined upon your Committee, and in view of the testimony which will be more fully brought before the Society at the proper time,

### WE CHARGE—

NOTE.—Here follow the charges and specifications, which are omitted in the context to avoid repetition and save space.

Dr. Hunt moved that Dr. J. M. Cornelison be summoned to appear before the Society at the next regular meeting, to answer. Carried.

### MEETING,

September 6th, 1870.

Dr. Culver, Chairman of a Special Committee, continued report of the Committee, preferring charges against Drs. Bird, Buffett, Burdett, and Noble. Report received, and Committee continued.

NOTE.—Dr. Cornelison was not present at this meeting.

### MEETING,

October 4th, 1870.

The President in the Chair.

It was moved and seconded that all charges against accused members should be read. Carried.

Charges were then read against Drs. Cornelison, Buffett, Noble, and Bird. It was moved and seconded that charges against Dr. Bird should be first considered. Carried.

The prosecution and defence having been heard on Specification *first* against Dr. Bird, the vote was called for, and the Specification declared proven by the following vote: Affirmative—Drs. Varick, Vondy, Morris, Hunt, Watson, Miller, Hardenburg, Chabert, Benson, Talson, Comfort, Culver, Viers, Payn, Prendergast, Wolfe, Gardiner, Gilman, and Freeman—19. In the negative—Drs. Cornelison, McDowell, Lutkins, Noble, Buffett, Burdett, Buck, Andrew, Elder, Boek, and Avery—11; three members being excused from voting.

The specification reads as follows:

We charge Dr. J. Q. Bird, a member of this Society, with immoral and unprofessional behavior, in the following particular. Specification: He obtained membership in this Society, on a special pledge of fidelity to the Code of Ethics, and to all rules adopted by this Society for the government of its members; which pledge, his subsequent association with the Hudson County Hospital staff, has dishonored.

Dr. Hunt moved that the Society adjourn until Tuesday, October 11th, at 3 P. M. Carried. The Society then adjourned.

M. A. MILLER,

*Secretary.*

### ADJOURNED MEETING,

October 11th, 1870.

Unfinished business.

Dr. Culver moved, that the Society proceed to investigate Specification 2nd, in the charges against Dr. J. Q. Bird. Carried.

The Specification reads as follows: Violation of the Code of Ethics. Professional association with a physician who is not in good moral and professional standing in the place in which he resides.



Dr. Bird declining to plead, it was moved and seconded that Dr. McDowell be appointed to act as Dr. Bird's advocate. Carried.

Testimony being called for, the Secretary was directed to read a notice from the *New York Medical Record*, dated September 15th, 1870. Dr. Elder being called upon to say who were on the staff of the Hudson County Hospital, he assented to what had been read from the *Record*.

The Secretary was called upon to read from the Minutes of the Society extracts concerning Dr. Quimby.

Dr. Forman offered the following Resolution: That the record of the Minutes of this Society, relative to Dr. Quimby, be considered as establishing his professional status. Seconded and carried. Twenty-one Yeas; thirteen Nays.

Dr. McDowell, as advocate, made an appeal to the Society in behalf of Dr. Bird.

Dr. Morris moved for the vote of the Society upon Specification 2nd, against Dr. Bird. Carried.

The vote on the Specification declared it proven by the following vote:

Yeas: Drs. Varick, Vondy, Morris, Hunt, Miller, Watson, Hardenburg, Reeve, Chabert, Benson, Talson, Comfort, Culver, Hammond, Forman, Payn, Prendergast, Wolfe, Case, Gilman, Abernethy, and Mitchell—Twenty-two. Nays: Drs. Cornelison, McDowell, Lutkins, Kudlich, Noble, Buffett, Burdett, Buck, Avery, Elder, and Bock—11.

The Society then adjourned to Wednesday, October 19th, to continue trial.

M. A. MILLER,

*Secretary.*

ADJOURNED MEETING,

October 19th, 1870.

#### Unfinished business.

Dr. Culver moved that sentence be postponed in the case of Dr. J. Q. Bird until the guilt or innocence of those other members charged with cognate crimes shall have been established. Seconded and carried.

Dr. Morris now moved that the Society proceed to investigate the charges against Dr. E. P. Buffett. Seconded and carried.

To Specification 1st, against Dr. Buffett; he admits association, but pleads not guilty to the charge. The prosecution presented testimony, and Dr. Buffett read his defense.

The vote being called for on Specification, it was declared proven by the following vote: Ayes—Drs. Morris, Vondy, Hunt, Miller, Watson, Hardenburg, Benson, Culver, Prendergast, Wolfe, Gardiner, Gilman, Abernethy, Mitchell, and Freeman—Fifteen. Nays. Drs. Stout, Burdett, Avery, Bird, and Bock—Five; one excused.

The Specification reads as follows: We charge Dr. E. P. Buffett, a member of this Society, with immoral and unprofessional behavior, in the following particulars. Specification: Professional association, on the Hudson County Hospital staff, with a physician who is not in good moral and professional standing in the place in which he resides.

Dr. Morris moved that the Society proceed to investigate Charges and Specifications against Dr. J. B. Burdett. Seconded and carried.

The vote of the Society being called for, the Specification was proven by fourteen Ayes, four Nays, and one excused.

ADJOURNED MEETING,

October 26th, 1870.

#### Unfinished business.

Dr. Culver moved that sentence be postponed in the case of Dr. E. P. Buffett and in the case of Dr. J. B. Burdett until the guilt or innocence of those other members charged with cognate crimes, shall have been established. Seconded and carried.

Dr. Morris moved that the Society proceed to investigate charges and specifications against Dr. J. M. Cornelison. Seconded and carried. On vote, Specification 1st was not sustained; 2nd and 3rd proven by vote of eleven affirmative; no negative, and two members excused from voting.

Dr. Culver moved that sentence be postponed in the case of Dr. J. M. Cornelison until the guilt or innocence of those other members charged with cognate crimes shall have been established. Seconded and carried.

REGULAR MEETING,  
November 1st, 1870.

Executive Session.

The Chairman of a Special Committee of this Society further reported charges against L. W. Elder and Dr. John Kudlick. Report received and ordered to take the usual course.

The Secretary was ordered to notify the members accused.

NOTE.—Dr. Kudlick stated that he had not accepted his appointment on the Hudson County Hospital staff; and the charges against him were withdrawn.

ANNUAL MEETING,  
HUDSON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY,  
December 6th, 1870.

Dr. Culver moved that the Society proceed to the trial of Dr. L. W. Elder. Carried. The charges were then read against Dr. Elder, as follows:

We charge Dr. L. W. Elder, a member of this Society, with immoral and unprofessional behavior in the following particulars:

Specification 1st.—He is, of his own choice, associated on the Hudson County Hospital staff with a physician who is not in good moral and professional standing in the place where he resides.

Dr. Elder pleaded *not guilty*, and denied that this Society had the right to try him. He then read his reply.

Dr. Cornelison being called upon to say who were on the staff of the Hudson County Hospital, named Drs. Elder, Buffett, Burdett, Noble, Julien, and Quimby.

Dr. Culver moved that the Ayes and Nays be called on the question: Is Dr. L. W. Elder guilty of the charge?—which was carried. Ayes, eighteen; Nays, seven, and two excused.

The charge was then declared proven.

REGULAR MEETING,  
January 3rd, 1871.

Unfinished business.

The charges against Dr. Noble were then considered.

The Secretary read the charge and specification, as follows:

We charge Dr. F. E. Noble, a member of this Society, with immoral and unprofessional behavior, in the following particular:

Specification.—Professional association, on the Hudson County Hospital staff with a physician who is not in good moral and professional standing in the place in which he resides.

Dr. Noble pleaded *not guilty*, and denied the right of the Society to try him.

Dr. Culver offered in evidence, and had read, a printed copy of Board of Regents, Consulting Staff, Attending Staff, etc., of the Hudson County Hospital; Dr. Noble's name appearing on the Attending Staff. In reply to question from the President, admitted his acceptance of said appointment.



Dr. Culver then moved, that we proceed to vote on question: Is Dr. Noble guilty of the charge, as read? Seconded by Dr. Buffett, and carried.

The same was declared proven by vote of twelve in the affirmative and three in the negative, and two excused.

Dr. Noble's vote in the negative was objected to by many, but permitted by the President, though Dr. Morris wished his objection noted.

Certiorari papers were here received.

NOTE.—At this stage of the proceedings, Dr. Morris rose excitedly, and demanded that the certiorari papers be not received, and that they who have sought to serve them be at once expelled; and made a motion to this effect. Dr. Watson, the President, declared the motion not in order, since it involved contempt of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, and was most impolitic, as well as unlawful.

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ADJOURNED MEETING,  
Held January 10th, 1871.

Dr. Culver, from Committee on Procuring Council, reported that they had engaged Robert Gilchrist, Esq., as council.

Dr. Payn moved that report be accepted, and the Committee continued to confer with the council in the case. Carried.

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STATED MEETING,  
August 1, 1871.

The Committee on Charges, through its Chairman, presented the decision of the Supreme Court, on the certiorari of Dr. Elder and others. The case returns to the Society.

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NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT.

JUNE TERM, 1871.

THE STATE.	}	<i>Certiorari.</i>
DR. ELDER, Prosecutor,		
<i>versus</i>		
THE DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY OF HUDSON COUNTY.		

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Argued at February Term, 1871, before Justices Seudder and Van Syckel.

Attorney-General, for Defendants.

Mr. Ogden, for Plaintiff.

Van Syckel, Judge.

\* \* \* \* \* There is no power in this Court to continue or complete the proceedings which have been instituted in the special tribunal created by positive law. The question to be tried cannot be withdrawn from that forum, nor can it be denied the right to terminate the proceedings which have been initiated before it. \* \* \* \* \* I find no authority for certifying into this Court for review of the proceedings now in question before judgment, and therefore the writ should be quashed.

Justice Seudder concurs.

NOTE 1.—The above are extracts from a certified copy of the decision in this case.

NOTE 2.—During our intercourse with counsel, pending the Certiorari, we were informed that Art. VI. of the Constitution of the Hudson County District Medical Society was defective as a Code of Procedure. To render it applicable to offences subversive of the edicts or existence of the Society, it was amended to read as in the last printed edition. Amendment passed, March 5th, 1872.

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STATED MEETING,  
September 5th, 1871.

The Committee on Charges had no report; when, on motion of Dr. Morris, the Committee was discharged.

Dr. Culver moved that Dr. D. L. Reeve be reinstated to membership in this Society, he having paid up back dues. Carried.

Dr. Culver also moved that Dr. J. M. Cornelison be hereby restored to membership, he having paid up back dues. Carried.

Dr. Hunt moved that all other members may be reinstated to membership on payment of dues; which was carried.

NOTE.—Drs. Hunt and Morris fought hard at this meeting against the readmission of defiant members. But it had always been the custom of the Society to restore such members as had forfeited membership by non payment of dues whenever they paid their indebtedness; and the majority scorned to accomplish the expulsion of offending members by any opportune advantage or indirection. Chagrined at the result, Dr. Hunt offered his final motion, with ambiguous purpose, to defeat or to test the sincerity of the majority.

The earliest recognition of the defection of Drs. Hunt and Morris dates from about this time.

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ANNUAL MEETING,  
December 5th, 1871.

Dr. Morris moved that this Society return its Charter to the State Society. Motion seconded.

Dr. Hunt proposed the following amendment:

That a Committee of ten be appointed to return the Charter of this Society to the State Society, together with the books and papers of the Society, and request that a Charter be granted to physicians in good standing in Hudson County, and that all funds remaining in the Treasury, after paying necessary expenses of Committee, be transmitted to the medical sufferers from the late fire in Chicago.

Dr. Morris accepted the amendment.

NOTE.—Dr. Hunt claimed that members disobey and defy the Society—that we dare not expel them—that they had beaten us in the Supreme Court—that we do wrong to fellowship them—that his was a feasible plan to get rid of them.

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ADJOURNED MEETING,  
December 12, 1871.

The President, Dr. Watson, in Chair.

The Society opened under new business. Dr. Abernethy moved that Dr. Morris' motion be laid on the table until more members arrive; which was carried.

Subsequently, it was moved and carried, that Dr. Morris' motion be taken from the table. Motion was read by the Secretary.

Drs. Hunt, Morris, and Vondy spoke in favor of the motion; and Drs. Abernethy, Culver, and Varick against it. On question being called, the Ayes and Nays were taken, with the following result:

Ayes—Drs. Gardner, Hunt, Morris, and Vondy.—(Four).

Nays—Drs. Abernethy, Andrew, Benson, Chabert, Comfort, Culver, Gillman, Hayes, McGill, McLoughlin, Miller, Mitchell, Morgan, Talson, Varick, and Watson.—(Sixteen).

Motion to return Charter, lost: four to sixteen.

Affirmative vote—Drs. Gardner, Hunt, Morris, and Vondy.



NOTE.—Drs. Abernethy, Varick, Watson, and Culver declared that the proposed surrender of the Charter was an indirection, unworthy to be considered; that it would be, moreover, a legal impossibility without the consent of all the members; and that, in disciplining members, we ought to meet the issue squarely and honorably,

Drs. Hunt and Morris had canvassed for their motion, and had come to this meeting with a counted majority—they were sorely disappointed.

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REGULAR MEETING,  
March 5th, 1872.

An amendment to Art. VI. of the Constitution was adopted.  
(See printed copy of Constitution.)

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REGULAR MEETING,  
July 2d, 1872.

An amendment to Art. III. of the Constitution was adopted, creating a Comitia Minora; and defining its powers and duties.

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SPECIAL MEETING,  
March 23d, 1872.

Dr. Watson stated the object of the meeting, viz.: The formation of an anatomical class, under the auspices of the Hudson County District Medical Society.

Dr. McGill moved, that a Committee of three be elected by the Society to undertake the formation of a class, for the purpose of pursuing the study of anatomy, etc.; also that Dr. Watson be Chairman. Seconded and carried.

The Committee appointed were Drs. Watson, Hunt, and McGill.

Dr. Culver offered the following Resolution:

Resolved: "That Drs. Watson, Hunt, and McGill, be hereby appointed and authorized to form a class or sub-organization of this Society, with power to procure a room, material, etc.; and to make all requisite arrangements for scientific investigation, as authorized by an 'Act to promote Medical Science in Hudson County,' passed March 11th, 1872; and that said sub-organization be hereby empowered to hold official meetings, and fix the time and place thereof; to appoint a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, annually or *pro tem.*; to determine a quorum; to admit to membership any acceptable graduate or student of medicine, and to perform all duties which may of right devolve upon them in prosecuting the investigation aforesaid." Seconded and carried.

NOTE.—The following paper was signed by fifteen or sixteen members, among whom were Drs. Hunt, Morris, Prendergast, and Reeve, etc.; who, after a room had been procured and fitted up, managed to defeat and break up the class, and never offered to pay their share of the expense:

"We, the undersigned, agree to join a class for the purpose of pursuing the study of anatomy and to bear our proportion of the expense incurred thereby."

(Here follow the signatures).

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SPECIAL MEETING,  
September 10th, 1872.

Dr. Varick moved that all members of the Society, in connection with an association called the Hudson County Pathological Society, having been reported to be guilty of violating and dishonoring the constitution and code of ethics and rulings of this society, therefore

Resolved: That they be summoned to appear before the Comitia Minora to explain said conduct. Carried unanimously. Members present: Drs. Benson, Culver, Gilman, Hunt, Mitchell, Morris, Payn, Pettigrew, Varick, Watson & McGill.

NOTE.—The Hudson County Pathological Society was chartered and established ostensibly as a rival to the District Medical Society. It received into membership irregular practitioners,

and those inimical to the District Society. It was indeed an asylum of antipathies, into which were welcomed rejected candidates and code offending members who became voluntary fugitives from the District Medical Society.

These facts were clearly asserted in the evidence given before the Comitia Minora.

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REGULAR MEETING,  
October 1st, 1872.

Report of Comitia Minora.

Whereas, Drs. A. G. Avery, J. B. Burdett, E. P. Buffett, J. Q. Bird, J. M. Cornelison, L. W. Elder, F. Geisler, J. H. McDowell, E. J. Lowenthal, J. F. Morgan and F. E. Noble, have violated and dishonored the constitution and rulings of the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson, and the code of ethics of the American Medical Association, which has been adopted by the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson, and together have associated with an individual whose professional standing is not good in the place in which he lives;

Therefore, we, the members of the Comitia Minora, would unanimously recommend to the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson the following resolution:

Resolved: That the members aforesaid be, and hereby are, unanimously expelled from the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson.

Report of the Comitia Minora accepted, thirteen to seven.

The Secretary then read a summary of the evidence of the guilt in respect to the charges for which they were tried, given on the part of the delinquent members before the Comitia Minora.

After we had heard and considered this evidence, Dr. Culver offered the following resolution: That

Whereas, it has been satisfactorily proved to the members of this Society that Drs. A. G. Avery, J. B. Burdett, E. P. Buffett, J. Q. Bird, J. M. Cornelison, L. W. Elder, F. Geisler, J. H. McDowell, E. J. Lowenthal, J. F. Morgan and F. E. Noble, have violated and contumaciously dishonored the rulings and code of ethics of this Society, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the aforesaid members be, and hereby are, summarily expelled from the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson, N. J. Seconded.

Ayes and nays being called, the resolution was passed, fifteen to five.

The members of the Society were apprised of the expulsions and the expelled were no longer notified of the meetings.

N. B.—Drs. Hunt and Morris voted in the negative.

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THE RETRIEVAL.

SKIRMISHING OF HUNT, MORRIS & CO.

REGULAR MEETING,  
DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY,  
October 1st, 1872.

Numerous amendments to the Constitution were offered by Drs. Hunt, Foreman and Morris, making radical changes, especially in articles Third and Sixth.

The chair decided that unless the amendments were regularly received by vote of Society they could not go on the minutes, not coming properly before the Society.

Dr. Hunt called for the decision of the chair in reference to article eighth of Constitution, in reference to the amendments.

The chair decided as before.

Drs. Hunt and Culver indulged in an animated debate concern-



ing the amendments, when the remarks of Dr. Hunt becoming rather personal, Dr. Culver was obliged to insist on Dr. Hunt being called to order.

Moved by Dr. Hunt and seconded by Dr. Morris that a copy of Cushing's Manual be purchased by the Society and placed on the President's table, to be kept there so as to be convenient for reference.

This motion was lost.

N. B.—This last motion was intended as a satirical fling at the ruling of the President.

REGULAR MEETING,  
November 5th, 1872.

Dr. Morris offered the following amendment to the Constitution, that the words "Comitia Minora" be expunged from each and every section of the Constitution in which they occur, and all that may relate to such Committee.

Dr. Hunt offered an amendment to article sixth of the Constitution, the last clause to be stricken out, and "but shall be amenable to discipline the same as other members" substituted.

Dr. Hunt also offered the following amendment to article second of Constitution, last clause, "Twelve members shall constitute a quorum."

Dr. Forman moved that the vote to expel certain members of the Society found guilty of a violation of the Constitution and Medical Ethics be reconsidered. Seconded.

Dr. Benson said that Dr. Elder had informed him that he was ready to resign from the Hudson County Pathological Society, together with Drs. Lowenthal and Geisler, and that Dr. Kudlich, a member of that Society, would also resign, if they could be assured of admission into the District Medical Society.

Dr. Hunt said that in his opinion the expelled members never had a fair trial, not being tried in accordance with the Constitution. He considered the Society to have acted wrongly, and now the best way it could atone for its fault would be to rescind its erroneous action.

Dr. Culver spoke in answer to the remarks of Dr. Hunt, defending the action of the Society, which he considered to have acted in perfect accordance with the Constitution. The trial of these members, the Doctor said, had been conducted with the utmost propriety, with strict impartiality, and with a due regard to legality. \*Dr. Culver, in concluding, remarked on what he called Dr. Hunt's wild fancies, and was peremptorily called to order by Dr. Hunt for personality.

Dr. Culver moved that Dr. Forman's motion be laid on the table. Seconded.

The ayes and nays being called for, Dr. Culver's motion was carried, by the following vote:

Ayes—Drs. Carpenter, Cary, Comfort, Culver, Eddy, McGill, McLoughlin, Miller, Mitchell, Van Houten and Watson—11. Nays—Drs. Hunt, Forman, Morris, Viers and Vondy—5.

ANNUAL MEETING,  
HUDSON COUNTY DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY,  
Court House, Jersey City, December 3d, 1872.

Members present, Drs. Abernethy, Andrew, Benson, Blake, Boek, Car-

\*NOTE.—Dr. Culver remarked that if the expelled gentlemen wish to question the legality of their expulsion, they can do it in a court of competent jurisdiction.

Dr. Hunt, "They will do it."

Dr. Culver, "I cannot believe the gentleman to speak now by authority, or to be aware how supremely sick are those men of supreme courts. They are now proposing to sever their illicit connection and to return voluntarily and obtain re-admission in our Society. I hope that course will be followed, and will lead to an end of all our disagreements. I am very sure that the Society has done no wrong in this matter. I cannot endorse the wild fancies of Dr. Hunt. Did the gentleman himself do wrong in voting to arraign them before the Comita Minora?"

penter, Chabert, Comfort, Culver, Eddy, Everett, Finn, Forman, Gilman, Hunt, McBride, McLoughlin, McGill, Miller, Mitchell, Morris, Paul, Payn, Prendergast, Varick, Van Houten, Vondy, Watson and Wilkinson—29. Dr. Benson, the President, in the chair.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

It was moved by Dr. Watson that the Society open business, under the fourth rule. Carried.

The Society now proceeded to ballot for officers for the ensuing year, and also for the delegates to the State Medical Society.

The election resulted as follows :

President.....	DR. M. A. MILLER.
Vice-President.....	DR. J. D. MCGILL.
Secretary.....	HENRY MITCHELL.
Treasurer.....	H. H. ABERNETHY.
Reporter.....	J. E. CULVER.

Comitia Minora	{	DR. J. R. VARICK.
		DR. D. BENSON.
		DR. B. H. WATSON.
		DR. F. G. PAYN.
		DR. J. E. CULVER.

Delegates to N. J. State Medical Society :

At Large	{	DR. B. A. WATSON.	{	Representing	DR. J. D. MCGILL.
		DR. M. A. MILLER.			DR. H. H. ABERNETHY.
		DR. HENRY MITCHELL.			DR. J. F. FINN.
					DR. F. G. PAYN.
					DR. D. BENSON.

Alternates :

At Large	{	DR. B. GILMAN.	{	Representing	DR. R. F. CHABERT.
		DR. S. R. FORMAN.			DR. T. F. MORRIS.
		DR. J. H. VONDY.			DR. J. W. VAN HOUTEN.
					DR. L. A. MCBRIDE.
					DR. J. W. HUNT.

NOTE.—Prefatory to the Meeting of January 7th, 1873.

For a time prior to the Annual Meeting, December 3d, 1872, Drs. Hunt, Morris, Vondy, and Forman had contributed to mar the harmony of the District Medical Society ; consequently they were looked upon as unsafe men at this time, and were not elected to any position of trust. Such a ballot, and the near prospect of a re-admission of the expelled members, or, perchance, the thought that then or never was their opportunity to embroil and dismember the Society, may have precipitated their action. They proposed, as the sequel will show, to bring the expelled members by a short cut back into the Society at once, and, with their aid to begin its disintegration. To aid this plot it was heralded forth that the Comitia Minora had expelled them—had even acted as complainant, jury, and judge—but that the District Society had taken no action in the matter. Indeed, the Comitia Minora was saddled with sins to order, and rattling volleys of righteous indignation were hurled after the scapegoat.

The expelled gentlemen were very easily gathered into the net that was thus spread for them ; and, *pro tanto*, a few weeks afterwards, Drs. Morris, McDowell and Lutkins were added to the staff of the defunct Hudson County Hospital (Dr. Quimby had been deposed). Here was success worthy of the Artful Dodger ! Several members of the District Medical Society, who had formerly been arraigned for irregular practices, volunteered under the new banner, and co-operated heartily with Drs. Hunt, Morris & Co. Several new members, unawares, were converted to the new schism by specious statements, the character and animus of which they were unable to discriminate. For days and weeks the chief and his lieutenants furtively patrolled the district, and a considerable number of drilled recruits, including four members who do not frequent the meetings of the Society, mustered at roll-call of the January (1873) meeting, charged to the muzzle with explosives for the Comitia Minora. The Scientific Session was soon smothered ; the Executive Session was a tornado.

## REGULAR MEETING, DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY, COUNTY OF HUDSON.

January 7th, 1873.

Members present : Drs. Abernethy, Benson, Carpenter, Case, Comfort, Craig, Culver, Everett, Eddy, Field, Forman, Gilman, Hunt, Lutkins, Mc-



Bride, McLoughlin, Miller, Morris, O'Callaghan, Paul, Prendergast, Rau, Selnow, Talson, Van Houten, Varick, Viers, Vondy, Watson and McGill—Thirty.

The President, Dr. Miller, in the chair.

The Secretary, Dr. Mitchell, being absent, on motion of Dr. Morris, Dr. McGill was elected Secretary *pro tem*.

#### Scientific Session.

Dr. McGill, the regular monthly essayist for January, read a paper entitled "Confused Wounds," for which he received the thanks of the Society.

Dr. Morris moved that the Society now go into Executive Session. Seconded. Dr. Culver moved that Dr. Morris's motion be laid on the table. Seconded. Ayes and nays being called for the vote resulted in a tie—twelve to twelve. Whereupon the President decided in the affirmative.

Dr. Morris now moved that "we now close in Scientific Session." Seconded and carried.

#### Reports of Committees.

On Dr. Chabert's bill.—The Chairman being absent, Dr. Forman reported progress.

On presentation of Claims and Accounts, Dr. McGill presented a bill from the *Times* Printing Company, \$2. Ordered paid.

#### Unfinished Business.

Dr. Morris moved that Dr. Forman's motion to reconsider the vote by which certain members of the Society were expelled, for violations of the Constitution and Code of Ethics, be now taken from the table. Carried. Dr. Culver\* explained his vote in the negative. Remarks by Drs. Hunt, Watson, Morris and Culver.

Dr. Morris moved that Dr. Forman's motion be now acted upon. Seconded by Dr. Hunt.

The ayes and nays being called, the vote resulted as follows: Ayes—Drs. Carpenter, Case, Craig, Eddy, Everitt, Forman, Hunt, Lutkins, Morris, O'Callaghan, Paul, Prendergast, Rau, Selnow, Talson, Van Houten, Viers, Vondy, and Watson—Nineteen. Nays—Drs. Abernethy, Benson, Comfort, Culver, Gilman, McBride, McGill, McLoughlin, Miller, and Varick—Ten.

Dr. Field was excused from voting

Dr. Morris called for the reading of the report of the Comitia Minora on the trial of the recusant members. Dr. Morris moved that the vote on Dr. Culver's resolution to expel certain members for violation of the Constitution, etc., be now reconsidered. Seconded by Dr. Hunt.

Remarks on this motion by Drs. Varick, Morris, McGill, Culver and Hunt. Dr. Hunt claimed that, according to the last clause of article third of Constitution, this question was not debatable. Dr. Culver, remarking on the question, was called to order by Dr. Morris, but, by permission of the Society, was allowed to finish his remarks. The Chair decided Dr. Culver in order, as the question before the house was on a reconsideration of the vote of ex-

\*Dr. Culver said: The gentlemen were expelled for improper association. They have accepted expulsion as an accomplished fact. We are informed that some of them are about to sever their connection with Drs. Quimby, Keirsten, and others, and desire re-admission. I sincerely hope that membership will be accorded to them. Above all things I should like to see good faith and fellowship among all the physicians of our County. I am in favor of removing every obstacle to a fraternization of all conflicting interests—all—Dr. Quimby not excepted.

Sooner than become an insurmountable obstacle to such a union, on account of personal animosities harbored against me, I will even offer to resign my own membership for the benefit of others. Defiant violation of the Code of Ethics I have always opposed; but I will do my utmost for lawful conciliations. Mr. President, I fear that this reconsideration menaces new hostilities; and that if the present opportunity be neglected, a whole generation may pass away before a settlement will again be possible. I move that a committee of conference be selected from the different factions to arrange for an amicable settlement of all our difficulties. Not seconded.

pulsion, and not on any report of the Comitia Minora. Drs. Watson, Hunt, Benson, Abernethy, Morris, Culver, Talson and Vondy also remarked upon the question in point.

Dr. Culver moved to lay the whole matter on the table until the evidence upon which the recusant members were convicted by the Society could be produced and re-read. Seconded.

Upon the vote being taken the result was a tie. The Chair then decided in the affirmative.

Dr. Morris moved to take Dr. Culver's motion from the table. Seconded. (Query—What motion?)

The Chair said that, inasmuch as the Society had just decided to lay the whole matter on the table until the evidence of the guilt of the recusant members could be produced and re-read before the Society, that he would decide Dr. Morris to be out of order.

Dr. Watson moved that the Society now proceed to consider the pending amendments to the Constitution. Seconded by Dr. Culver.

Dr. Morris now appealed from the decision of the Chair in declaring out of order his motion to take from the table Dr. Culver's motion. The Chair again decided Dr. Morris to be out of order in his appeal.

Dr. Morris appealed again, demanding that the ayes and nays be called. On the ayes and nays being called, the vote resulted as follows: Ayes—Drs. Abernethy, Benson, Comfort, Culver, Field, Gilman, McBride, McGill, McLoughlin, Miller, Paul, Rau, Varick, and Watson—Fourteen. Nays—Drs. Carpenter, Case, Craig, Everitt, Eddy, Forman, Hunt, Lutkins, Morris, O'Callaghan, Prendergast, Selnow, Talson, Van Houten, Viers, and Vondy—Sixteen. The Chair was thus not sustained in its decision.

Dr. Morris then moved that we now vote on the acceptance or rejection of Dr. Culver's resolution, as it appears in the minutes. Seconded.

Dr. Culver moved that "we do now adjourn." Seconded. Ayes, fifteen; nays, fifteen. Lost. (Chair voting in affirmative.)

Dr. Morris repeated his motion to take from the table Dr. Culver's motion. Seconded. (Query. What motion of Dr. Culver's was tabled?) Dr. Morris was declared out of order by the Chair.

Dr. Morris appealed from the decision of the Chair, calling for the ayes and nays. Ayes, thirteen; nays, sixteen. Chair not sustained.

Dr. Culver moved that the Society adjourn. Seconded. Motion lost. Ayes, fifteen; nays, fifteen. (President voting.)

NOTE. At this stage confusion and insult reigned supreme, and many left the undignified scene in disgust.

Dr. Morris demanded that the vote be taken on Dr. Culver's resolution, expelling certain delinquent members from the Society, for a violation of the Constitution and Medical Ethics. Seconded by Dr. Forman. On the ayes and nays being called the vote resulted as follows: Ayes—none; nays—Drs. Carpenter, Case, Craig, Eddy, Everitt, Forman, Hunt, Lutkins, Morris, O'Callaghan, Prendergast, Selnow, Van Houten, Viers and Vondy—fifteen.

NOTE.—The expulsion vote could only be reached by reconsideration, and it was too late for that.

Dr. Morris's amendment to expunge the words Comitia Minora, etc., from the Constitution, was adopted by the following vote: Ayes—Drs. Carpenter, Case, Craig, Eddy, Forman, Hunt, Lutkins, Morris, O'Callaghan, Prendergast, Selnow, Van Houten, Viers and Vondy—fourteen. Nays—Drs. McGill and Miller—two.

Dr. Everitt was excused from voting.

Dr. Hunt's amendment to article second of the Constitution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes—Drs. Carpenter, Case, Craig, Eddy, Everitt,



Forman, Hunt, Lutkins, Morris, O'Callaghan, Prendergast, Selnow, Van Houten, Viers and Vondy—fifteen. Nays—Drs. McGill and Miller—two.

Dr. Hunt's amendment to article fourth of the Constitution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes—Drs. Case, Craig, Eddy, Everitt, Forman, Hunt, Lutkins, Morris, O'Callaghan, Prendergast, Selnow, Van Houten, Viers and Vondy—fourteen. Nays—Drs. Carpenter, McGill and Miller—three.

Dr. Morris moved that the Secretary be notified to inform the re-admitted members of the result of the vote, and also to notify them of the next meeting of the Society. Seconded and carried.

Dr. Morris moved that a committee of three be appointed by the Society, consisting of Drs. Vondy, Hunt and Forman, to take charge of the "Constitutions and By-Laws," with power to take out and put in what they may think proper, and have the same printed. Seconded. Dr. Morris modified his motion at the suggestion of several members, so far that the committee should report to the Society the alterations they should make, before having the books printed, and submit the same for its consideration. Seconded as amended.

Dr. Prendergast said that he considered three too small a number—five would be better—and offered this as an amendment, "The committee to consist of five members." Dr. Morris accepted Dr. Prendergast's amendment and further amended the motion by moving that Drs. Eddy and Prendergast be added to the committee. The motion, as amended, was carried. Ayes—fifteen; nays—one.

A vote of re-consideration was then taken on all the amendments to the Constitution passed, and lost.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

J. D. MCGILL,  
Secretary, *pro tem.*

NOTE.—Prefatory to meeting of February 4th, 1873.

Immediately after January 7th, 1873, Drs. Hunt, Morris & Co., evidenced great anxiety to get possession of the minutes. They applied to the Secretary for them. The Secretary, too obsequious to their wishes, made haste to demand them of the Secretary *pro tem.* The Secretary *pro tem.* suspected, from their haste, their unscrupulousness, their manner, and their remarks, that they now sought to supplement the minutes with something which had inadvertently been left undone, and therefore refused to give up his minutes until approved by the Society. It transpired afterwards that it was the "Forman motion," whose fate excited so much solicitude. They began to reflect that they had acted upon too many of Dr. Morris's motions instead. Notwithstanding this qualm they came to the February 4th meeting, flushed with their recent victory, full of hope, and reinforced with the attendance of three of the expelled gentlemen, anxious to do their will.

#### REGULAR MEETING, DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY OF HUDSON COUNTY, N. J.

February 4th, 1873.

Members present: Drs. Varick, Culver, Vondy, Reeve, Chabert, Buck, Lutkins, Morris, Buffet, Payne, Hunt, Craig, Watson, Talson, Miller, Benson, Hardenburg, Selnow, Wolf, Case, Viers, Prendergast, Gilman, Geisler, Bird, Avery, Abernethy, Mitchell, Morgan, McGill, McLoughlin, Paul, McBride, Eddy, and Carpenter—thirty-five.

*Dr. Miller, the President, in the chair. P*

*The meeting was called to order by the chair, and the Secretary proceeded to call the roll, but was interrupted by the President, who objected to the calling of the first name on the roll, viz., Dr. Cornelison. The ground of the objection was, that Dr. Cornelison was one of the twelve recently-expelled members. P*

*The objection of Dr. Miller was met by a protest from Dr. Morris, who insisted upon having the name of Dr. Cornelison called, stating that the expelled members referred to were reinstated by the passage of a motion, offered by Dr. Forman, at the regular meeting in January, and that the Secretary was thereby OBLIGED to include the names objected to. P*

P *Power of the President to dictate how the roll should be called.\**

P *Dr. Morris moved that the names objected to by the President be called.†*

*The chair having decided that the names of the twelve recently-expelled members should not be called, Dr. Morris †appealed from† the decision of the chair. Seconded by Dr. Vondy.*

*The chair refused to entertain the appeal, declaring it "out of order." After some discussion between Dr. Morris and others, the chair finally stated the point of order, which was that Dr. Morris should have moved to appeal, instead of saying, "I appeal." Dr. Morris now moved to appeal from the decision of the chair, declaring that the names of Dr. Cornelison and others should not be called in the roll. Seconded by Dr. Vondy. A very excited debate here took place between Drs. Watson, Morris, Vondy, Culver and others, all order being lost.*

*Dr. Morris moved to suspend the by-law requiring the calling of the roll, and thus expedite business. Seconded by Dr. Vondy. Objected to by Dr. Culver. A vote being taken on this motion, it was lost.‡ P*

*Dr. Morris moved to go into a committee of the whole. Seconded. Remarks by Drs. Watson, Culver, Morris and Vondy. The motion was finally withdrawn.*

*Dr. Morris moved that the Secretary call the roll as it stands on the minute-book. Carried.*

*The roll was now called, in compliance with the last motion, when the names of Drs. McDowell, Kudlick, Geisler † and ‡ Lowenthal were objected to for non-payment of dues.*

*The names of Drs. A. G. Avery, J. B. Burdett, E. P. Buffett, J. Q. Bird, J. M. Cornelison, L. W. Elder, F. Geisler, J. H. McDowell, E. J. Lowenthal, J. F. Morgan and F. E. Noble were objected to by Dr. McGill, who wished his objection noted.§*

*The minutes of the previous meeting were now called for, when the Secretary stated that they were not in his possession, nor had they ever been. The Secretary *pro tem.* of the January meeting being called on for the minutes produced them and, by the direction of the President, proceeded to read them. Dr. Vondy objected to the minutes being read by Dr. McGill. Dr. Morris objected to the minutes, and requested that they be re-read in order that they might be corrected in detail. The chair declined to grant the request. Dr. Watson moved that they be re-read in so far as they relate to the motion of Dr. Forman. Seconded and carried.*

*They were then re-read in part by Dr. McGill. † ‡*

*Dr. Morris moved that the minutes be corrected in detail. Seconded and carried.*

*† Dr. Morris moved to correct the minutes, so that it shall be stated in them that "business was transacted between the laying on the table of Dr. Forman's motion, by the motion of Dr. Culver, and the motion to 'take from the table Dr. Forman's motion,'" which was declared out of order by the chair, on the ground that no business had been transacted. Dr. Vondy seconded the motion to so correct them, and, on a vote being taken, the motion was carried.¶ † ‡*

*Dr. McGill now continued the reading of the minutes. Dr. Watson here explained his views in regard to the action of the Society at its last meeting, especially in reference to its action upon the Forman motion. Dr. Morris objected to Dr. Watson's remarks, as being foreign to the subject under consideration, *i. e.*, correction of minutes.*

*The chair decided Dr. Watson "in order," and Dr. Morris then appealed*

\* Underneath a small paster.

† Covered with blank paster, which has been raised.

‡ NOTE. All this is a paster, with four small pasters over it.

§ NOTE. That they were not members.

¶ A misstatement.

• NOTE.—This motion was made, but was not carried. It is erased by cross scratchings.



from the decision of the chair. The ayes and nays being taken on the appeal, it was lost and the chair sustained. Ayes, nineteen ; nays, eleven, as follows : Ayes—Varick, Culver, Chabert, Payn, Watson, Talson, Miller, Benson, Wolfe, Viers, Gilman, Abernethy, Mitchell, McGill, McLoughlin, Paul, McBride, Eddy and Carpenter—nineteen. Nays—Vondy, Reeve, Lutkins, Morris, Craig, Hardenburg, Selnow, Case, Prendergast, Avery and Morgan—eleven.

Dr. Watson now continued his remarks, criticizing the Forman motion, strongly condemning it, and expressing himself most earnestly in opposition to it; quoting various authorities to support his position. He also reviewed other acts of the Society at the January meeting. (The following is Dr. Watson's argument, in part :

Mr. President :

\* \* \* \* \*

I desire to call your attention to the following facts : First. The motion of reconsideration is in violation of the Constitution of this Society, and, therefore, ought never to have been entertained. The moment the motion of expulsion was passed, and that fact declared by the Chair, the gentlemen to whom it referred ceased to be members. It now follows as a necessity that they must comply with Article V. of the Constitution, if they desire to be re-admitted ; as this is the only article in the whole Constitution relating to the mode in which membership *can be obtained*. The article reads as follows :—

#### Article Five.

“ Any practitioner of medicine and surgery, of acceptable moral and professional reputation, who is a graduate of a medical college, or a licentiate of a medical organization, either in affiliation with the American Medical Association, or by them recognized as qualified to grant medical diplomas, shall be eligible to membership in this Society. Every proposal for membership accepted, shall be referred to a committee of three members, appointed by the President, that shall forthwith proceed to examine the eligibility of the candidate, and shall report thereupon at a subsequent meeting. The report received, an election by ballot shall be held, and a concurrence of three-fourths of all the members present will be required to admit such candidate. Upon admission, each member shall subscribe his name to the Constitution and By-Laws, and pay an admission fee of five dollars into the treasury ; he shall also pay twenty-five cents per month thereafter.”

Gentlemen, at the last regular meeting of this Society, not only was the Constitution openly violated ; but parliamentary law suffered the same fate. It is true, Dr. Vondy has recently informed us, that we have nothing to do with parliamentary law. I regret sincerely to hear the gentleman give utterance to such sentiments at this time, especially as he, and those now acting with him, were formerly not only advocates, but sticklers on this subject. Why have we such a declaration now ? What does it mean ? Are we to understand that in the future we are to be governed by mob law ? I trust not ! Permit me here to say that Parliamentary law is as binding on this Society as a body as is the common law of the land upon us as individuals. Have we an individual in our organization who would assert that the common law of the land is not binding on him ?

I think not, and I hope all may be found equally ready to render obedience to those laws governing societies, among the civilized nations of earth. I will now read to you from Cushing's Law and Practice of Legislative Assemblies, page 508, paragraph 1276, the following law binding on this question of reconsideration : “ It is a general principle, also, with regard to this matter, that there can be no reconsideration of an order, the execution of which has already commenced.”

The motion of expulsion which you have pretended to reconsider was passed at a regular meeting of the Society, held October 1st, 1872, and the names of the expelled were *published* to the members of the Society within a

few days of that time. The publication of the names *ended the execution of the order*; it therefore follows there could be no reconsideration in this case. The motion of reconsideration was not made until the first Tuesday in November, 1872, and failed to be acted on until the first Tuesday of January, 1873, when it was taken from the table; whereupon Dr. Morris moved that Dr. Forman's motion be now acted on. Carried.

Permit me here to call your attention to this fact, that, although Dr. Morris's motion was carried, Dr. Forman's was not acted on. I am willing to admit that Dr. Forman's motion should have been called up immediately after the preliminary motion was passed; but here is a vital omission. The question may arise whether this preliminary one was in order or not. In answer to this I will read to you from Jefferson's Manual, page 136, paragraph 5: "When any motion or proposition is made, the question, 'Will the house now consider it?' shall not be put, unless it is demanded by some member, or is deemed necessary by the speaker." Dr. Culver moved "to lay the whole matter on the table until the evidence on which the recusant members were expelled could be produced and re-read." Carried.

This was, the same day, taken from the table by a motion of Dr. Morris, in violation of parliamentary law. The first violation here consisted in attempting to do what we had just agreed by vote to leave undone until certain conditions could be complied with; and this was done without a reconsideration of Dr. Culver's motion.

The second violation is one of vital importance to the whole question, and nullifies all your previous action in this matter of reconsideration, for the reason that the evidence on which the Society acted when the vote of expulsion was taken, was not produced in accordance with the motion of Dr. Culver. I will cite here Cushing's Law and Practice of Legislative Assemblies, page 508, paragraph 1274, which is as follows: "The further effect of this principle is, that, though a motion for reconsideration may be made and discussed, in the absence of the paper to which it relates, yet if decided in the affirmative, it will be wholly ineffectual and inoperative until the paper in question is in the possession of the house.")

Dr. Morris remarked upon the minutes, and moved that they be corrected to read, "The motion of Dr. Forman, that 'the twelve expelled members be reinstated,' was acted upon and passed." Seconded by Dr. Vondy.

The Chair declared this motion out of order.

Dr. Morris appealed from the ruling of the Chair, and the appeal was also declared out of order.

Dr. Morris moved that the minutes be amended to record the passage of the Forman motion. Seconded.

Remarks by Dr. Culver. He states that the Forman motion did *not* pass at the last meeting. The Doctor was called to order in the course of his remarks by Dr. Morris, for personalities, having referred to members present as "conspirators." Dr. Culver continued his remarks, reviewing the action of the Society at its last meeting, and branding it as "infamous," &amp;amp;.

He was called to order by Dr. Carpenter, the point of order being that that the Doctor was speaking foreign to the subject under consideration, *i. e.*, correction of minutes.

The Chair ruled Dr. Culver "in order," and Dr. Morris appealed from the decision of the chair. No notice was taken of the appeal. When Dr. Culver had finished his remarks, Dr. Morris requested to have noted his exception to the *neglect* of the President in disregarding his appeal.

Mr. President:

The last regular meeting of this Society was rendered infamous by the conduct of some of its members. Pardon my indignation, Mr. President, that an inviting opportunity to harmonize all the conflicting views and interests which divide into cliques the medical men of this County, should have been scorned and thrown away, merely to gratify a personal spite or indivi-



dual ambition. Prior to that meeting couriers scoured the district, freighted with prejudice and misinformation. To accomplish a preconceived plot members were brought out who were strangers to our meetings—members who have never assisted us in any laudable undertaking, came to take a hand in the disintegration of the Society. No one will dispute their right to meet with us—it is to be hoped that we may meet often, until acquaintance eventuates in harmony of purpose.

The object of a meeting so unusual was kept a profound secret among themselves; and other members of the Society were uninformed of the treachery and the foe in ambush.

We now know that there was a conspiracy and that the meeting was packed in the interest of a faction, so meagre at first as to consist of but three or four persons. The scheme was comprehensive. They were to rule or ruin our Society. They were to dictate who might occupy hospital and other public appointments. Already they have aspired to Hunt us from the St. Francis' Hospital, and make us perform a Morris-dance down the front steps. It was the inimitable Vondy, who, with sullen drawl and whine, snarled out at our last Society meeting his memorable pronouncement, "We're a goin' to run this Society now, and teach you fellers some decency." May he comprehend what I am saying, and take a just pride in his pupils. (Confusion and cries of "order.") Some years this gentleman has attended one or two meetings of the Society; other years not one. In times past ("order," "order," etc.) he took no interest in our affairs. ("Order.")

Mr. President, pardon my digression from the January meeting. Not one of the conspiring members participated in the Scientific Session, and their first unseemly act was to terminate it prematurely. Finding that they had a majority of one present their leaders became factions, excited and headlong in their movements. They indulged in remarks that were impolite, untruthful and criminating—in discourteous personalities and great provocations. One of the leaders was up and down incessantly, ever defying the authority of the President, imputing false motives, and gratuitously and grossly insulting him. Motions and resolutions were offered helter-skelter—one would crowd out and defeat another—without regard for evidence, or law, or parliamentary usage, and even in contravention of them.

During the tumult and confusion which existed at one time many members left the meeting in disgust, without the requisite permission from the President. This gave the conspirators a clear majority. Judged by the business subsequently transacted, the partizan proceedings seem to us merely malicious, disorganizing, destructive—otherwise purposeless. They sought to overturn the safeguards of the By-Laws, the Constitution and the Code of Ethics, and to plunge the Society headlong into criminality, extravagance and debt. They endeavored, in their delirium, to return to the Society, on a sheer subterfuge—a pretended reconsideration—a trumped-up technicality—oblivious of law and good morals—certain expelled members, who, to this day, remain unpurged of their crimes, and whose expulsion, once clamored for by them, is even now admitted by these parvenue abettors, to have been justly deserved.

I am told that the recent edition of the "Constitution, etc.," is ordered to be destroyed and a new one printed.

We submit, Mr. President, that such irregular and factional proceedings do not tend to make the sessions of a Medical Society available for the diffusion of valuable knowledge; nor do they promote harmony among medical men; neither do they redound to the honor of our District Society, and maintain high the standard of professional character. On the contrary, they bar out information; they excite mischievous antagonisms among members; and they lead on, step by step, to the faithless disavowal of those ethical obligations to which we have individually subscribed our names.

Therefore, Mr. President, let no record of our last meeting deface the

minute-book. Let the memory of those unfriendly tricks pass quickly into oblivion, never henceforth to point a satirical allusion and mantle our cheeks with shame. I protest against the hostile and unparliamentary acts and manœuvrings of that meeting, and I protest against the preservation of any memento of the infamy.)

After two unsuccessful efforts to adjourn, it was moved by Dr. Watson that, "the minutes be approved as far as re-read." The ayes and nays being taken upon the motion, it was lost. Ayes—Chabert and Payn—Two. Nays—Varick,\* Culver, Vondy, Reeve, Lutkins, Morris, Buffet, Craig, Watson, Talson, Miller, Benson, Hardenburg, Wolfe, Case, Viers, Prendergast, Gilman, Avery, Abernethy, Mitchell, Morgan, McGill, McLoughlin, Paul, McBride, Eddy and Carpenter—Twenty-eight.

Dr. Morris moved to amend the minutes so that they shall record the passage of the Forman motion. Declared "out of order."

Dr. Morris appealed from the decision of the Chair. The appeal was also declared out of order.

Dr. Morris moved to adjourn. Seconded. The ayes and nays being called for, they were taken as follows: Ayes—Varick, Culver, Vondy, Reeve, Lutkins, Morris, Buffett, Payn, Craig, Watson, Talson, Miller, Selnow, Case, Prendergast, Avery, Mitchell, Morgan, McGill, Paul, McBride, Carpenter—Twenty-two. Nays—Wolfe, Viers, Gilman, Abernethy, McLoughlin, Eddy—Six. Adjourned.

NOTE—Dr. Mitchell, Secretary, had, at the February 4th meeting, espoused the cause of Drs. Hunt, Morris & Co., though at a later date, he declared publicly that all his sympathies were with the "other party." The above minutes falsify his profession, however, for they are false in important particulars, apparently in the interest of the insurrectionary party. His minutes were written out by himself, and afterwards important modifications were made by means of erasures and pasters. The pasters cover what had first been written; some of them are left blank, some are written over. Words written over pasters and interlineations are in italics. Erasures are marked † †—Pasters, P.

Dr. Mitchell did not call the roll of members as it stands on the minute-book, in accordance with Dr. Morris's ambiguous motion—but he called the names of those who had been expelled, three of whom were present.

Dr. Morris strove hard to supplement the minutes with figments of no earthly importance, but failed. The attacking column was bewildered. The correct minutes of the previous meeting were not adopted. The loyal party did not wish them to be recorded at all; the disloyal party did not wish them to be recorded until they could first manipulate them. Both agreed to adjourn, and both laughed heartily at Dr. Morris, who rose and sat down so often during the session, as waggishly to suggest a play of Jack in the box, or the nips of a Tarantula. The champions of the developing plot left in irate dudgeon.

During the month of January Dr. Culver had worked for reconciliation. Dr. Buck had promised Dr. Culver to advocate it at the February meeting. Dr. Tallson was furnished by Dr. Culver with a schedule, proposing a commission, to consist of one representative of each faction, to arrange a basis of settlement, to which every medical gentleman in the County could honorably subscribe, agreeing to let by-gones be by-gones, and ever in future to act in good faith for the promotion of harmony, and the perpetuation of the District Medical Society.

Dr. Buck was absent from the meeting. Dr. Tallson could find no opportunity to propose the peace, so stormy and bellicose was the session.

The following is the schedule above alluded to:

#### PROSPECTUS.

Shall we dishonor the constitution and code of ethics to which we have all subscribed?  
Shall we disorganize the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson, N. J.?  
Shall we appeal to the State Society?

or,

Shall we seek to harmonize the several cliques into which the society and other medical practitioners residing within this county are now divided?

Cannot a Board of Arbitration, composed of one representative from each faction, be formed, that shall consider this whole matter, and determine upon a written agreement of individual responsibility to the ethical provisions of the code and constitution, which cannot be disavowed without annulling membership, and which shall be accompanied with the provision that no member shall hereafter ever allude in our meetings to past differences—all parties qualified being admitted to membership who will sign the agreement?

\* Varick voted nay.



## CAPTURE OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HUDSON COUNTY DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY,  
COURT HOUSE, JERSEY CITY,

February 11th, 1873.

Members present:

Drs. Cornelison, Varick, Culver, Elder, Vondy, Buck, Lutkins, Forman, Morris, Buffett, Hunt, Noble, Craig, Watson, Burdett, Miller, McDowell, Hardenburg, Benson, Selnow, Viers, Geisler, Prendergast, Gilman, Bird, Avery, Laowenthll, Abernethy, Mitchell, Freeman, Van Houten, Morgan, McLoughlin, Paul, Eddy, Everitt.—(Thirty-six).\*

*The President, Dr. Miller, in the chair. The Secretary read the call for this meeting, which was as follows.† \* \* \* \* The Secretary now began to call the roll, but was interrupted by the President, who objected to the † first † name called—that of Dr. Cornelison. P*

*Dr. Morris rose to a point of order, which he stated as follows: "The presiding officer of this Society should not take advantage of his official position to object to proceedings in this body; such objections being equivalent to "DECISIONS," and requiring an "APPEAL" to enable the business to proceed, while an objection from another member would need no such appeal." P*

*Dr. Miller withdrew‡ his objection, and the calling of the roll was continued. Dr. Culver objected to "the names of those members who, by a simple act of the Secretary, were added to the roll," and wished his objection noted in those words. Dr. Hunt and Dr. Buck§ remarked upon the objection of Dr. Culver. Dr. Morris moved, seconded by Dr. Lutkins, that the roll be called as it appears on the Minute book. Carried. The calling of the roll was now completed. P*

*Dr. Culver here objected to the call for this meeting, stating¶ that one of the gentlemen whose name is attached to it is not a member of this Society. Upon being called upon to state to whom he referred, Dr. Culver said he had reference to Dr. Lutkins. Dr. Lutkins objected to this statement, and declared it untrue.\*\* P*

The discussion of this subject was temporarily terminated by the reading of two other names—those of Drs. Morris and Hunt—which were also affixed to its call.

The special business of the meeting was now opened by the President, who called for the reading of minutes of the January meeting. The Secretary stated they were still in the hands of Dr. McGill, from whom he had just received a communication, stating that he was out of town, and that the minutes were still in his possession.††

Dr. Morris now offered a record of the transactions of the January meeting for the consideration of the Society. Dr. Vondy moved, that Dr. Morris read the record of the transactions of the January meeting, which

\* Eleven of these gentlemen were not members. The conspirators were out in full force. The call foretold trickerly, and the loyal members were tired of it. Only about eight of them were in attendance.

† (A). It was not stated in the call for the February 11th meeting, that Dr. Morris' fictitious "record," or "preamble and resolution," was to be adopted, and afterwards voted "correct." An absurd violation of Article 11. of the Constitution, not less than a disregard of truth and good faith, was the result.

‡ Error.

§ Dr. Culver asked Dr. Buck, "What is the true object of this special meeting? Dr. Buck replied, "We have come here to put these men back into the Society."

¶ Dr. Morris' motion is ambiguous. Dr. Mitchell called a roll, at this time, which was never on the minute book at any period of the Society's existence.

¶ Dr. C. said, those whose names headed the call, were very irregular in their attendance, and that the admission to membership of one of them had been most irregular.

\*\* Dr. Lutkins' words were, "I believe it's a lie—I believe it's a d—d lie."

†† Dr. McGill was called unexpectedly away in haste, and left the minutes in his office.

he has offered. Seconded. Dr. Culver objected to Dr. Morris being allowed to present \* minutes. † Dr. Watson remarked that he did not consider that minutes adopted on this occasion, and under these circumstances, will be in any wise binding upon the Society. A vote being taken upon Dr. Vondy's, it was carried.

Dr. Morris moved, to be allowed to read a preamble and resolution before reading the record of the transactions of the January meeting. Seconded. Carried. Dr. Watson objected to the reading of the preamble and resolution, and wished his objection noted. Dr. Morris now read the preamble and resolutions, as follows: \* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Culver called Dr. Morris to order when reading the foregoing, for personalities. The point of order was sustained by the Chair.

Dr. Morris appealed from the decision of the Chair. The Ayes and Nays being called for, they were taken as follows:

Ayes—Drs. Culver, Watson, Benson, Gilman, McLoughlin, McBride.—Six.

Nays—Drs. Cornelison, Elder, Vondy, Buck, Lutkins, Forman, Morris, Buffett, Hunt, Noble, Craig, Burdett, McDowell, Hardenburg, Selnow, Viers, Stout, Geisler, Prendergast, Avery, Lowenthal, Mitchell, Freeman, Van Houten, Morgan, Paul, Eddy, Everitt.—Twenty-eight.

The appeal was therefore sustained, and Dr. Morris continued to read the preamble and resolutions.

The record of the transactions of the Society at its January meeting, was also read by Dr. Morris.

*(The Fictitious Minutes.)*

Whereas—

Dr. J. D. McGill, Secretary, *pro tem.*, of the January meeting, has refused to deliver to the Secretary of this Society his record of said meeting, as Secretary, *pro tem.*, claiming that it is his personal property, until approved by the Society, and

Whereas—

Dr. McGill does still, at this date, refuse to deliver the same to the only proper custodian of all papers belonging to the Society, and

Whereas—

It does appear from the reading of the record, kept by him, (he having read the same at the last regular meeting), that the transactions of the said meeting are not faithfully recorded, being garbled in very important points and decisions; and as a minority, with the presiding officer, did refuse to allow the said record to be so amended as properly to set forth the action of said meeting;

Therefore be it resolved—

That we do now declare the following to be the record of the transactions of the meeting of January 7th, 1873. And we do hereby direct the Secretary to record the same in the book kept for the recording of minutes, together with this preamble and resolution.

Roll was called, and the following were present: Drs. Miller, McGill, Watson, Culver, Varick, McLoughlin, Tallson, Benson, Lutkins, Vondy, Selnow, Forman, Morris, Hunt, Craig, Field, Comfort, O'Callaghan, Case, Viers, Abernethy, Van Houten, Paul, Eddy, Carpenter, Everett, Prendergast, McBride, and Rau.

Minutes of December meeting were read.

Dr. Morris inquired in reference to non-recording of vote, by which several parties were declared elected to certain offices. Minutes were approved.

Under Third Rule of order—

\* "Manufacture," was the word.

† See note (A).



Dr. McGill read an essay. As soon as essay was read, Dr. Morris moved, which motion was properly seconded, that we now go into executive session.

This was objected to, but finally all opposition to the motion ceased, and it was carried.

It was now moved that we open in the Eleventh Rule of order. This was lost.

Fourth Rule was called.—Election of Officers—and closed.

Fifth.—Report of Committees. None to report.

Sixth.—Presentation of Claims. Dr. McGill presented a bill for printing, which was ordered paid.

Seventh Rule.—No communication. Closed.

Eighth.—Proposals for Membership. None. Closed.

Ninth.—Balloting for Membership. None. Closed.

Tenth.—New business. None offering. Closed.

Eleventh.—Unfinished business.

Dr. Morris moved that Dr. Forman's motion to reconsider the vote by which certain members of the Society were expelled for violation of the Constitution and Code of Medical Ethics, be now taken from the table. Carried.

The reading of Dr. Forman's motion was now called for, and it was read. There was considerable discussion, *pro* and *con*, and the motion was passed. The Ayes and Nays being called, but by some collusion or misunderstanding between the Secretary *pro tem.* and the presiding officer, Dr. Miller, the Chair declared it had not passed; and again it was urged, and every reasonable effort made to bring it before the Society, but every attempt was a failure.

Dr. Morris moved that Dr. Forman's motion be now acted upon. Seconded by Dr. Hunt. Carried. Dr. Forman's motion having been again reached, was now passed by a majority of those present, Ayes and Nays having been called.

At this point the President was asked by Dr. Vondy the question, "If the motion had now been passed, or how many times it was necessary to vote upon it to pass it?" and the President appealed to the Secretary for the facts, and finally decided that it had been passed.

Dr. Morris called for the reading of the report of the Comitia Minora on the trial of recusant members.

Dr. Morris called for the reading of resolution offered by Dr. Culver, in reference to expulsion of certain members for violation, etc. This resolution was now read, and remarks were made by different members. It was claimed by Dr. Hunt that, according to last clause of Article III. of Constitution, this question was not debatable. Dr. Culver remarking on this question was called to order, but, by permission of the Society, was allowed to proceed. The Chair decided Dr. Culver in order, as the question before the Society was the resolution of Dr. Culver, in reference to expulsion, and not the report of the Comitia Minora.

Remarks were made by others upon the question. Dr. Culver moved to lay the whole matter upon the table, until the evidence upon which the recusant members were convicted by the Society could be produced and read. Upon a vote being taken, the result seemed to be a tie, and the Chair then declared the motion carried.

Dr. Morris moved to take the resolution of Dr. Culver from the table. Declared out of order by the Chair, as no business had been transacted since the motion to lay upon the table had passed.

Dr. Watson made a motion to proceed to act upon the pending amendments to the Constitution. Seconded by Dr. Culver. Lost.

Dr. Morris then renewed his motion, to take from the table the resolu-

tion of Dr. Culver. Seconded. Dr. Morris stated that as business had now been transacted, his motion was certainly in order. Declared out of order.

Appealed from the decision of the Chair. The Chair was not sustained. The motion was acted upon and carried; and the resolution of Dr. Culver being then before the Society, the Ayes and Nays were called, and the majority of all present voted in the negative; and the resolution was declared by the President to be lost. A number of members here discourteously left the room without the assent of the presiding officer.

After order was restored, Dr. Morris called for reading of amendment to the Constitution, offered by him at November meeting, which was read by the Secretary *pro tem.*, and, receiving the vote of all present, except two; the Ayes and Nays being called, was declared passed.

Dr. Hunt called for the reading of amendment offered by him at the November meeting; which was now separately voted upon, and passed; the Ayes and Nays being called, (two votes only in the negative.) Declared passed by the President.

Dr. Morris moved that the Secretary be directed to notify those who, at this meeting, have been restored to membership, of the next regular meeting of the Society. Seconded and carried.

Dr. Morris then moved a reconsideration of the vote by which each amendment to the Constitution had been passed. In each and every case a reconsideration was refused; voting upon each separately.

#### Twelfth Rule of order.—Appointments of Committees.

Dr. Morris moved that the copies of the Constitution, By-Laws, etc., recently printed, and the amendments now adopted, be referred to a Special Committee of five to get into shape, and report to this Society for revision, before printing. Carried.

Drs. Vondy, Hunt, Forman, Eddy, and Prendergast were appointed such Committee.

Motion was now made to adjourn, which was carried unanimously.

HENRY MITCHELL,  
*Secretary.*

Dr. Hunt moved to adopt the preamble and resolutions. Seconded. This motion was declared out of order by the Chair.

Dr. Hunt appealed from the decision of the Chair. A vote being taken, the appeal was sustained. Dr. Watson called for the reading of the preamble and resolution.

They were then re-read by Dr. Morris.

Dr. Watson remarked upon the motion of Dr. Hunt, and in the course of his remarks *said that he doubted if any member present would say that the Forman motion to reconsider the vote by which certain members of this Society were expelled, was passed at the January meeting.*

Dr. Forman arose and said that the motion referred to, "*did pass*" at the meeting referred to, and that he "was ready to make affidavit to that effect."

Drs. Hunt and Morris also asserted that the motion to reconsider said vote to "*expel*" *did pass at the January meeting.\**

Dr. Culver seconded Dr. Watson in remarking upon the passage of Dr. Forman's motion to reconsider said vote. He said there was much confusion among the members on that point, and stated that he believed the Secretary *pro tem.*, Dr. McGill, at the time, considered the motion passed, *and had so recorded it in the minutes;* but that he (*Dr. C.*) had suggested † to Dr. McGill that † it did "*not pass.*"

\* Dr. Morris' motions were acted on, but Dr. Forman's was not. See minutes of February 7th, 1873.

† The outrageous falsehood, postscripted in these interpolations, was trumped up and inserted with villainous intent. (See charges by Dr. Vondy). I hope Dr. Mitchell will some day confess how and by whom he was persuaded to do this.



*Dr. Morris called upon the Secretary to note Dr. Culver's statements. P*  
*Dr. Culver wishes his objection to the minutes, P presented by Dr. Morris,*  
*noted.*

The President now called Dr. Watson to the Chair, and replied to the *P charge made* against him in the resolution read by Dr. Morris. He denied, *†† as an aspersion, P* the statement referred to, and said it was far from his design to take a partisan *position* on this or any question. He wished to be understood as ruling without personal feeling toward any member, and with an earnest regard for justice toward all.

Dr. Lutkins arose to a question of privilege. Dr. Culver had *raised a P* question in regard to his membership in this Society, and he desired to know upon what grounds such a personal attack is *P made*. He has for many years considered himself a regular member, and has been so considered by others. *P The Dr. called upon the President for a reply to his question, "Am I a member of this Society?"*

Dr. Morris requested the privilege of replying to Dr. Lutkins' question. Dr. Morris referred to the minutes of the Society, and read a motion, offered by himself (Dr. M.), January 8th, 1867, which expunged from the minutes all action of this Society in reference to the *P rejection* of Dr. Lutkins, consequent upon his failing to sign the Constitution and By-Laws. *†† Dr. Morris explained that the only charge ever made against Dr. Lutkins was that he did not sign the Constitution and By-Laws and attend the meetings.*

Drs. Buck, Hunt, and Vondy also spoke in reply to the question of Dr. Lutkins; each of these gentlemen confirming *P Dr. Morris' statement of facts. P*

Dr. Lutkins expressed himself satisfied with the assurances made *P of his being in regular membership, and hoped this would settle the question.\* P*

*Dr. Forman moved to erase from the preamble and resolution offered*

\* Extracts from the Minute Book :

REGULAR MEETING,  
 May 5th, 1852.

Dr. Olcott proposed the name of Dr. A. A. Lutkins, and having vouched for his being a licentiate,\* he was elected a member of this Society unanimously.

\* Not a graduate.

REGULAR MEETING,  
 August 9th, 1854.

On motion, it was resolved that the Secretary of the Society notify Dr. Lutkins that he may sign the Constitution and By-Laws, and comply with the rules of the Society, on pain of suspension.

NOTE.—Over two years after election.

REGULAR MEETING,  
 November 8, 1854.

The Secretary then reported having notified Dr. Lutkins to attend and conform to the rules of the Society, on pain of expulsion. Report approved.

REGULAR MEETING,  
 February 22d, 1855.

Dr. Lutkins' election to membership was reconsidered, and he was unanimously rejected. (*Vide Minutes*).

N. B.—The By-Laws permit no second reconsideration. This is final, if legal.

REGULAR MEETING,  
 January 8th, 1867.

Dr. Morris moved that all these proceedings be expunged from the minutes, except his election to membership (Nearly fifteen years after proposal, and twelve years after final action thereon).

NOTE.—But this motion certainly did not re-elect him. His admission was most irregular, if not altogether contrary to law.

by Dr. Morris, the reference to Dr. Miller. Seconded by Dr. Morris.\* P (Where is the vote on this?)

Dr. Watson moved to amend by including the reference to the name of Dr. McGill. Seconded. The previous question was now moved by Dr. Hunt. Seconded. This motion was declared "out of order," by the Chair. P Dr. Morris appealed from the decision of the Chair. Confusion here took place; Dr. Watson having the floor, and speaking in defense of Dr. McGill's action in retaining possession of P the minutes of the January meeting.

Dr. Vondy moved to appeal from the decision of the Chair, declaring the "previous question" out of order. Seconded by Dr. Bird. Dr. Watson still claimed the floor, and was P declared "in order" by the Chair. Interruptions from many of the members, and great confusion here followed.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion for the previous question, when the motion was carried.

Dr. Watson's amendment P being called for, however, P it was, by request of the President, stated by the Secretary as follows:

Dr. Watson moved to amend the motion of Dr. Forman, to include in the erasure, the name of Dr. McGill. P

A vote being taken on this amendment, it was lost. Dr. Hunt's motion, "To adopt the preamble and resolution, offered by Dr. Morris," being now in order, it was acted upon, and passed by the following vote: the Ayes and Nays being called. P

Ayes—Cornelison, Elder, Vondy, Buck, Lutkins, Morris, Buffett, Hunt, Noble, Craig, Burdett, McDowell, Hardenburg, Selnow, Viers, Geisler, Prendergast, Bird, Avery, Mitchell, Freeman, Van Houten, Morgan, Paul, Eddy, Everett, Stout.—Twenty-seven.

Nays—Culver, Forman, Watson, Benson, Gilman, McLoughlin, McBride.—Seven.

Dr. Hunt moved to reconsider the P vote by which the preamble and resolution, offered by Dr. Morris, P was just passed. Seconded by Dr. Prendergast. Ayes and Nays were called for, and taken as follows:

Ayes—Forman, Benson, Gilman. P—Three.

Nays—Cornelison Culver, (not present), Elder, Vondy, Buck, Lutkins, Morris, Buffett, Hunt, Noble, Craig, Burdett, McDowell, Hardenburg, Selnow, Viers, Geisler, Prendergast, Bird, Avery, Mitchell, Van Houten, Morgan, McLoughlin, Paul, McBride (not present), Eddy, Everett.—Twenty-eight. † Dr. Watson refused to vote. P

Dr. Hunt moved that the record of the transactions of the January meeting be declared correct. ‡ Seconded.

Dr. Watson P moved to amend by striking out the word "correct." Seconded.

Upon a vote being taken on the amendment, it was lost. Ayes—Three. Nays—Twenty-seven.

A vote being taken on Dr. Hunt's motion, it was carried as follows:

Ayes—Cornelison, Elder, Vondy, Buck, Lutkins, Forman, Morris, Buffett, Hunt, Noble, Craig, Burdett, McDowell, Hardenburg, Selnow, Viers, Geisler, Prendergast, Bird, Avery, Mitchell, Van Houten, Morgan, Paul, Eddy, Everett.—Twenty-six.

Nays—Benson, Gilman.—Two. Dr. Watson refused to vote.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Carried.

The Society now adjourned.

NOTE.—The above minutes have been sadly and significantly tampered with. There are

\* This motion was carried, though it is not so stated in the minutes.

† Drs. McBride and Culver were not present when this vote was taken; but the Secretary here records their vote in the negative.

‡ Voted "correct," after adoption. When a naughty boy fibs, he often feels prompted to deny peremptorily all consciousness of lying.



nineteen pasters used, and numerous interlineations. The reader will please compare the true minutes \* of January 7th meeting, with the bastard ones of which Dr. Morris was delivered.

Dr. Mitchell added a false heading and false date, and copied the "Morris-record" into the minute book.

## THE SECESSION—AND FORMATION OF A RIVAL SOCIETY.

The writer has seen a part of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Hudson County District Medical Society, held in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Freeholders, near the Hudson County Court House, March 4th, 1873, as written in pencil by Dr. Henry Mitchell, Secretary. They are characteristically kept. They are too crude, disjointed, and incomplete, to be printed. Suffice it to say, that there is clearly visible in them an effort to criminate those gentlemen who were being abused, and to protect and participate with the varlets who were maltreating them—to libel the innocent, and shield the guilty.

At roll-call it became evident to all in attendance, that the conquering cohorts of Drs. Hunt, Morris, Vondy, and Co., were out in full force—members and non-members. Burlesque meetings were not to the taste of the more conservative members of the Society, many of whom remained at home. Those present counted only as a minority of the Society. They severally protested against calling on the roll the names of any persons who were not members. This brought Dr. Morris to his feet. He made his stereotyped motion, and then the Secretary called the roll as he saw fit. The President strove in vain to maintain order. The majority appealed from, and voted down, his every decision, however reasonable and just. They even expressed the sentiment that might makes right, and they would have their way.

Dr. B. A. Watson read the following protest :

*To the*

DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR THE COUNTY OF HUDSON, STATE OF  
NEW JERSEY.

The undersigned protests against the regular meetings of said Society, held on the seventh day of January, fourth day of February, and the special meeting, held on or about the eleventh of February last past, for certain illegalities and irregularities in the action of the Society generally; against the false minutes pretended to have been adopted and approved, and all recognition to expelled members recorded, and specially as to the pretended reconsideration of the vote of the expulsion of certain persons; and the undersigned most respectfully yet earnestly protests against the action of said Society.

B. A. WATSON, M.D.

Jersey City, N. J.,  
March 4th, 1873.

Dr. Miller, the President, rose amid blatant confusion, and when order was somewhat restored, essayed to speak. He deprecated the hostilities evinced since his term of office began, exhorted the members to orderly and honorable conduct, and, as he sat down, implored them "not to convert a sorry farce into a damning tragedy." (Dr. Prendergast, who was a listener, published, three days afterwards, in the secular papers, that Dr. Miller spoke of the termination of the existence of the Society in a bloody tragedy; an anamorphosis diabolical enough to be quite satisfactory to a then blood-thirsty Prendergast).

The minutes of the special February 11th meeting—(which see)—were read and discussed. Dr. Forman moved to approve the minutes, falsehoods,

\* Page 28, *et seq.*

pasters, and interpolations included. Dr. Watson moved to amend, by striking out all discourteous allusions to Dr. McGill from the "preamble and resolution." (Great confusion).

Dr. Culver called attention to the following errors in the record: 1. Dr. C. stated that Dr. Lutkins' admission to membership is irregular; not that he is not a member. 2. Dr. C. did not call Dr. Morris to order, as stated, but read a part of Section IX.—"No discourteous personal allusion shall be made or tolerated." An appeal was taken however, as stated, and the By-Law voted down. 3. The attributed statement that Dr. Forman's motion had been passed, and that Dr. McGill changed his minutes to read that it had not been passed, is utterly false, and without a shadow of excuse. Dr. McGill has the original minutes, written in pencil, at the January 7th meeting, which can be examined by anyone who thinks fit. Concerning this matter, not a single interlineation, or erasure, or change of any kind, exists, or has ever been made. 4. Dr. Culver is recorded, in Dr. Mitchell's minutes, as having voted after he had left the room. Dr. Culver moved to amend by the correction of these grave errors.

Both amendments were seconded.

After a deluge of discourtesy from Dr. Avery and others—("Very disrespectful, indeed," is written by Dr. Mitchell)—Dr. Watson's amendment passed by a small majority.

The party leaders were herein unexpectedly discomfited. They rallied their commands forthwith; and Dr. Culver's amendment was lost by a strict party vote.

This was the first time in the history of the District Medical Society that correction of the minutes had been objected to. In this instance it was disallowed by a majority vote of those present. *Cui bono?* As already hinted, these fabrications were invented and written in the minutes to subserve a pre-arranged purpose. (See Dr. Vondy's charges).

The motion to approve the minutes of the February 11th meeting, was also passed by a strict party vote; thus sanctioning nineteen suspected pasters, and interlarded myths, and slander without stint.

The first uproarious act in the "sorry farce," was completed. Dr. Vondy now stood up, and suddenly the silence of a death-bed scene came over his comrades, while, in drawling undertone, he began to read:

Mr. President:

It is with much regret that I feel it to be my duty to prefer charges against three members of this Society, viz., Drs. B. A. Watson, J. E. Culver, and J. D. McGill, for "contumaciously dishonoring the rulings of this Society, counterworking its objects and interests, and by such acts tending to degrade its standing and usefulness, and imperil its existence."

Specification 1st.—I charge that at the regular meeting of this Society, held at the Hudson County Court House, on Tuesday, January 7th, 1873, Drs. B. A. Watson and J. E. Culver did then and there rudely withdraw from the meeting without permission from the presiding officer, thereby violating Sec. IV. of the By-Laws.

Specification 2.—I charge that at a special meeting of the Society, held in the same place, on Tuesday, February 11th, 1873, Dr. B. A. Watson did contumaciously refuse to vote when his name was called, although a motion to excuse him was almost unanimously decided in the negative, thereby violating Sec. VI. of By-Laws.

Specification 3.—I charge that Dr. J. E. Culver did, at the same meeting, improperly and rudely assert that Dr. A. A. Lutkins was not a regular member of this Society, he knowing that the said Dr. Lutkins had been a member for nearly twenty\* years, and in good professional and moral standing, thereby violating Sec. IX. of By-Laws.

\* Since January 8th, 1867.



Specification 4.—I charge that Dr. J. D. McGill did, at the suggestion and with the connivance of Dr. J. E. Culver, so alter and change the minutes or record of the proceedings of this Society, at its meeting, on January 7th, 1873, as to make them untrue in certain particulars, and no longer a faithful record of the action at said meeting, thereby violating Article VI. of Constitution.

Specification 5.—I charge that Dr. J. E. Culver did conspire and confederate with Dr. J. D. McGill, to alter and change his records or minutes of the proceedings of this Society, at a meeting on January 7th, 1873, and that he did so confess and admit before this body at its last meeting, thereby violating Article VI. of Constitution.

Specification 6.—I charge Dr. J. D. McGill with contemptuously withholding the minutes of the regular January (1873) meeting of this Society, from the Secretary of said Society, (he being the only proper custodian of all its papers), he, the said Secretary, having made regular application for them, both personally and by letter; and I also charge the said Dr. J. D. McGill with having treated this Society disrespectfully, in that he, after being duly notified of a special meeting, to be held for the purpose of considering, correcting, and approving these minutes, did write to the Secretary of this Society from Princeton, N. J., to the effect that the said minutes were yet in his possession, thus withholding them from the Society in an irregular manner, and treating every member of this body with extreme discourtesy.

J. H. VONDY, M.D.

When the reading was finished Dr. Vondy, or one of his coadjutors, offered a Resolution to this effect that the charges be accepted as read. Dr. Culver moved to amend by striking out all after the word *Resolved*, and substituting so that the Resolution shall read as follows:

*Resolved*, that Dr. A. A. Lutkins, J. H. Vondy, D. S. Hardenberg, F. C. Schow, E. W. Buck, S. R. Forman, T. F. Morris, J. W. Hunt, Jas. Craig, S. V. W. Stout, C. H. Case, C. O. Viers, H. Mitchell, J. W. Van Houten, H. M. Eddy, J. J. Prendergast, and J. R. Everett, members of the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson, N. J., have conspired together, and have confederated with Dr. J. M. Corneilison, E. P. Buffett, F. E. Noble, J. B. Burlett, J. Q. Bird, A. G. Avery, L. W. Elder, F. Geisler, J. D. McDowell, E. J. Lowenthal, J. F. Morgan, and W. J. Hadden, who, last year, were expelled from membership in said Society, for violation of the Constitution and medical ethics, and that they, the members aforesaid, all and every of them, have aided or abetted to counterwork the objects and interests of the said society, contumaciously to dishonor its rulings and code of ethics, to degrade its standing and usefulness, and to imperil its existence; and, therefore, *Resolved*, that the members above named be, severally and collectively, and they hereby are, summarily suspended from membership in the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson, N. J., and from all and every the rights and privileges thereto appertaining.

J. E. CULVER, M.D.

Section VIII. of the By-Laws requires, and the custom of the society upholds the rule, that the vote on an amendment shall take precedence of that on the main question. Article VI. of the Constitution denies to accused members the right to vote upon questions involving their own discipline. Dr. Culver had included in his amendment the name of every member present belonging to the usurping faction, so that there could be no negative vote. The ayes and nays were taken. The amendment was, of course, carried by a few votes; but, to prevent the wholesale suspension imminent, and perchance simultaneously to rid the meeting of annoyance from intruders, Dr. Culver rose before the President had time to announce the result, and moved an adjournment; reading deliberately and in a loud voice, from a written paper which he held in his hand, the following words:

Mr. President: I move that the District Medical Society for the County of Hudson, N. J., do now adjourn, to meet immediately in the District Attorney's room in the Court House in Hudson county, N. J.

Seconded by Dr. McGill. "Those in favor of such adjournment will please say Aye" said the President. "Aye" was the emphatic and numerous response. "Those opposed, Nay," continued the President. "Nay," in fewer and more scattering accents, was the reply. "Carried" said the President rising, "This meeting is adjourned." "Ha! where are you going? The meeting isn't adjourned," bawled the leader of the usurping cabal to one who was about leaving. Taking the cue, several of his disciples began to dispute the adjournment, some of them clamoring at the President, who turning to them said, "Gentlemen, the meeting is adjourned—I regard you all as a band of disorganizers." The Secretary at first gathered his loose papers into the Minute-Book as if to depart with the Society, but listening to his Chief, he quickly assumed a position significant of a determination to remain. Noticing this, and indignant at the unjust aspersions on his own character foully and with evil intent wrought into the Feb. 11 minutes during his absence, which at this meeting had been ordered stricken out, but which, notwithstanding this order, were reiterated in "Dr. Vondy's charges"—firmly convinced that the minutes themselves would show who had garbled them, Dr. McGill wrested the minute-book from the dastard grasp of the Secretary and walked toward the door. When half across the room, half a dozen assailants beset Dr. McGill, and, nearly overpowered, he called to Dr. Watson, who was a few feet in advance, and threw the book to him. Dr. Watson caught the book before it fell to the floor, and passed it onward. It landed out doors on the front step. Dr. Watson coolly set about closing the front door. Meantime Dr. Varick, who had left the meeting prior to adjournment to visit a patient, espied the scuffle, the minute-book outside, and the papers blown about. He returned from the street, gathered them all up, took them into his carriage, and drove away.\*

There was a struggle at the door. Some essayed to open it, some to close it. Dr. Prendergast's eyes were so intently fixed upon Drs. Hunt, Morris, and Co., that he did not comprehend what was doing until the minute-book had left the room. He then rushed across the room, threw himself upon Dr. Watson, and attacked him vigorously.

He struck Dr. Watson's head against the door, and shattered the glass door-panel. The door bent like a wither, but Dr. Prendergast could not break it down, and Dr. Watson held it closed against all comers.

The coveted book, now at a safe distance, Dr. Watson loosed the door, and those near it walked forth. Peace reigned, and laughter began. A moment, and Dr. Prendergast danced about in Donnybrook-Fair fashion, and Dr. Mitchell said, "the man who took that book is a thief." Dr. McGill thereupon seized Dr. M.'s coat-collar, and Dr. M. suddenly changed his mind and begged Dr. McG. not to strike. Dr. McGill did not offer to strike. The insulting remark of Dr. Mitchell was the signal for a free fight on the part of the cycling Prendergast. He looked wild; and struck madly at one and another, and another; and twice he was knocked down in return for his gratuitous blows. Not one of the conservative party struck a single blow, except in self-defence against the blows of Prendergast.

Dr. Prendergast published a letter in the *Evening Journal*, March 7th, 1873, in which he says, "Circumstances forced it upon me." He sought to exonerate himself, and to lay the blame on others; and he did not inform the public that he was the first and chief offender. The letter contains thirty-four sentences or periods. Twenty-six of these sentences contain misrepresentations, five are mere expressions of his opinion, two state facts, and one, the opening sentence, says, "Please give space in your valuable paper to a

\*The minute-book was afterwards placed in the custody of Dr. Miller, the President.



correct version of the fracas, etc." Dr. Prendergast signed this tissue of falsehoods, and circulated it among the baffled party for signatures. They responded thus :

We, the undersigned, consider the above statement correct.

Dr. A. A. Lutkins,  
J. J. Vondy, M.D.,  
J. W. Hunt, M.D.,  
Henry Mitchell, M.D.,  
James Craig, M.D.,  
F. E. Noble, M.D.,  
J. M. Cornelison, M.D.

E. P. Buffett, M.D.,  
Jas. F. Morgan, M.D.,  
James Paul, M.D.,  
Sam. R. Forman, M.D.,  
J. W. Van Houten, M.D.,  
J. B. Burdett, M.D.,  
Chas. O. Viers, M.D.

It is said that Dr. Morris refused to sign it on account of its falsity. This straining at a gnat after swallowing a camel, reminds us of the part he has taken in the disruption of the Society, and the abortive trick played at the St. Francis' Hospital. Let him nurse that conscience tenderly.

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ADJOURNED MEETING,  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S ROOM, COURT HOUSE,  
March 4th, 1873, etc., etc.

The adjourned meeting of the District Medical Society was held immediately in the District Attorney's Room, in the Court House. Present—Drs. Watson, McLaughlin, Miller, McGill, Benson, Gilman, McBride, and Culver. Dr. McLaughlin was made Secretary *pro tem*. An adjournment was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously, to hold the next regular meeting at a place to be designated by the President, in the notices to be issued.

\* \* \* \* \*

Meantime Drs. Hunt, Morris, Vondy, & Co., seceded, and returned to the room just vacated by the District Medical Society, where they organized by the appointment of officers. They adjourned, I suppose; for on the 14th March, 1873, they published in the *Jersey City Times*, a daily paper, that ten members of the District Medical Society, and seven who are not members, had met, and "expelled Drs. Culver, McGill, Watson, Benson, and Miller." Dr. Varick was subsequently "expelled" by the same gang; but whether they published him in the dailies or not, I do not know. In the *Jersey City Times* they style themselves "The Hudson County Medical Society." Dr. McGill jocularly calls them the Modocs, and their haunts the lava-beds. They meet often.

The District Medical Society has since held its regular monthly meetings, and none others. They have been chiefly devoted to scientific discussions, details of interesting cases of disease, and the examination of many specimens of morbid tissues. The members have not lost temper, nor expelled a member, nor published in the daily press or elsewhere distorted facts, nor have they made any appeal whatsoever to the forum of public opinion. Twenty-six members sustain the Society against about fifteen seceders. These latter have taken the expelled members into an alliance offensive and defensive; but not more than four or five of them all have hitherto attended the meetings of the Society often, nor have any of them exhibited much interest in its welfare. The former, the loyal twenty-six, include in their number those who have, at all times, by a noble example, inculcated the advantages of untiring study, patient painstaking in practice, and good faith and mutual forbearance in all professional intercourse; most conspicuous among whom is a former President of the Medical Society of New Jersey. Their influence and irreproachable bearing have sustained the Society to the present time.

## RECAPITULATION.

The loyal members of the District Medical Society have been content to watch the wily manœuvres of their assailants, and to checkmate them by strictly parliamentary action; and, while they scorn to indulge in personal animosities, or to overreach by scheming or deception, they rely entirely upon the justice of their cause, confident of ultimate victory. "Thrice armed is he whose cause is just."

The conceit to organize disorganization within the Society had not a very remote origin. Drs. Hunt and Morris first took umbrage because certain members, proven guilty of unlawful association, having forfeited their membership by non-payment of dues, were, according to custom, restored to membership on payment thereof. Something more than a year ago, after having electioneered with caution, they sprung upon the Society unawares the brilliant project of surrendering its Charter, so as to get rid of misbehaving members. The project failed, and Drs. Hunt, Morris and Vondy were thereat deeply affronted.

Nearly a year afterwards, Drs. Hunt, Morris and Mitchell voted to ~~bring~~<sup>place</sup> before the Comitia Minora certain members charged with illicit association. The investigation sustained the charges. But on the question of expulsion, which was entertained, rather than that of suspension, out of deference to the strongly expressed sentiments of Drs. Hunt, Morris & Co., these quondam sticklers for consistency astonished their associates by casting a negative vote. Now came the Forman motion to reconsider, which was tabled, and then a ridiculous batch of amendments to the Constitution was proposed, with some indications of ill-blood from Drs. Hunt and Vondy.

At the annual meeting of the Society, December 3d, 1872, in the election of officers, the disorganizers were tabooed; and this seems to have exasperated Drs. Hunt, Morris, Vondy & Co., beyond endurance. During the month following, they enlisted all the disaffected, the indifferent and the new members whom they could persuade to join their cause. The January 7th, 1873, meeting, was packed in their interest; the Forman motion of reconsideration, in itself a more unparliamentary ruse, was taken from the table, and it failed to pass only through Dr. Morris's blundering. He was infuriate and overbearing, and the peaceably disposed were driven away.

At the February 4th meeting, three pioneers, not members, made their appearance, and, by collusion with the Secretary, took part in the proceedings.

At the February 11th special meeting, nearly all the expelled gentlemen were present, presumably (to adopt the language of Dr. Buck) to put themselves back into the Society. Their unauthorized enrollment by the Secretary, and their hasty recognition as members by the disorganizers, coupled together with the appointment, about this time, of several of the disorganizers on the staff of the defunct Hudson County Hospital, have the *prima facie* appearance of a bargain struck. What was the bargain? The disintegration of the District Medical Society was to be begun by the expulsion of its staunchest friends and supporters, the charges to be based on false and defamatory assumptions. The publications in the daily papers are tinctured with personal spite.

The onslaught on loyal members of the District Medical Society who are on the staff of the St. Francis' Hospital, commenced about the same time, has a special significance; and had this been successful, the same *role* might have been attempted at the Charity Hospital and the St. Mary's. The attack was foiled. But the record of St. Francis' Hospital was carried off by Dr. Forman and has not been returned. Dr. Morris left no record of the cases



under his care at this Hospital, for his successor, nor did he meet him to transfer them. The disintegrators affect to pass the loyal Physicians by whenever they meet, without recognizing them. Old pamphlets have been sent through the mails to physicians of the loyal party, addressed to them as "Ex-members H. C. M. S." This petty gratification of malice is too ridiculous to notice, only that it prompts the inquiry, "Was revenge in the bargain?" Drs. Hunt, Morris & Co. are very bitter against those who have so often defeated their machinations. The best friends of the Society, and especially the punctual attendants on all the meetings, shared the ill-will of those whom they had expelled.

Experience teaches that when an unworthy member of the medical profession is charged with immoral or unprofessional behavior, however clear and explicit the proofs of his guilt, he immediately assumes towards the Society the *role* of injured innocence, and an air of contemptuous hostility; complains to his friends and the public that the Society has been impelled in his case, by improper and personal motives; arraigns the conscientious judgment of his brother members before the bar of public opinion; canvasses indefatigably for the false issue throughout the County, and garners from the domain abundant gleanings of sympathy. But nobody ever defends or sympathizes with the right-minded members of the Society, who, braving popular prejudices, perchance honorably silent the while, are persistently misrepresented, pestered, and persecuted, because of, and for no other reason than, their honest endeavors to sustain a Code of Ethics to which they had subscribed in good faith.









